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Are we losing faith?

Big rise in non-religious funeral services reported

SPECIAL REPORT by Chris Murphy

FINAL farewells are increasingly becoming non-religious, with funeral directors across the county reporting a sharp rise in humanist services.

In what has already been a turbulent week for the Church of England, the findings of our special report will put increasing weight on the shoulders of incoming Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Justin Welby.

In addition to dwindling congregations, it appears that while religious funerals still comfortably dominate, there is mounting evidence the perceived shift to a

Continued on page 2

BOOK

'My dead son writes to me'

WHEN Sally Woodmansee's son died in a car crash she was forced to face up to a harsh new reality.

But, remarkably, she now claims her dead son writes letters to her each and every day, giving her an insight into the afterlife. Full, incredible story inside. **PAGE 9**

AUCTION

Dickens pub under hammer

A STROOD pub, once frequented by Charles Dickens, is to go under the auctioneer's hammer next month.

The drinking hole in Strood closed down in 2010 and was badly destroyed in a fire last year.

Campaigners fear it could be knocked down. **PAGE 13**

HISTORY

Saving graves of VC heroes

A 12-year-old boy is ensuring the memory of some of our bravest wartime heroes lives on after finding the graves of soldiers who received the Victoria Cross – the highest award for bravery.

Now he's appealing for help in his latest fundraising campaign. **PAGE 19**



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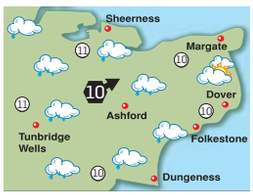
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Weather



TODAY: Windy with rain. Sun and showers later. Strong south-west winds. Max temp 9-12C (48-54F). **TONIGHT:** Windy with showers. Min temp 6-9C (43-48F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	08.39	6.0	21.14	6.0
Margate	09.39	4.3	22.16	4.4
St Mary's	02.17	4.9	14.36	5.0

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 11C	Min 5C
Tuesday	Max 9C	Min 4C
Wednesday	Max 7C	Min 3C
Thursday	Max 5C	Min -1C
Friday	Max 5C	Min 3C
Saturday	Max 7C	Min 2C

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RELIGION

'Shift in attitude' has led to a rise in humanist funerals

Continued from front page

more secular society is being reflected by the manner in which memorial services are being conducted.

A spokesman for Doves funeral services, which has nine offices around Kent, including Maidstone, Ashford, and Swanley, said: "About one in three of our services are now non-religious.

"It has gone up quite dramatically in the past year or so."

Humanist services have doubled across the UK in the last five years.

They have no references to the afterlife or any deity. Instead, whoever takes the service celebrates the life of the departed and reflects on what they meant to their friends and family.

Andrew Copson is spokesman for the British Humanist Association.

He explained: "Those we attend have doubled in the UK over the past five years to around 10,000 per annum now. And this number is set to increase dramatically as the demographic of the country changes.

"More young people are not religious and as they grow older they will most likely opt for a funeral that doesn't mention religion, so numbers will naturally increase."

Put in context, 493,242 people died in the UK in 2010.

The association said it is not anti-religious and never 'preaches' anti-God messages. It promotes itself as an organisation people can turn to for alternative ceremonies, including weddings.

The spokesman added: "Most services in Kent and the rest of Britain are held in crematoria which are not religious places anyway. Woodland burials are also getting more popular."

The BHA supplies what they call celebrants, which cost up to £180, to carry out either a funeral or memorial service. The fee is generally included in the overall cost of the funeral, payable to the funeral director.

The Co-operative, which has 32 directors across Kent, said: "Our research into funeral customs shows humanist ceremonies are increasing in number and now account for more than one in 10 funerals.



CHANGE: People are increasingly choosing to celebrate life, rather than mourn loss

"There has been a significant shift in attitude to funerals across the UK with the emphasis on celebrating life rather than mourning a loss, and as people seek to personalise their loved one's send-off they are choosing to organise a ceremony in keeping with that person's life and beliefs, and the rise in contemporary funerals and humanist ceremonies accounts for this."

John Weir, who runs John Weir Funeral Directors in Gillingham, Chatham, Rainham and Parkwood, adds: "We have seen approximately a 12 per cent increase in all non-religious funerals in the past year alone."

But the Church of England does not see this increase as a threat to traditional services.

In just the Canterbury diocese, which also covers Maidstone, Sheppey, Thanet, and Romney, the figures for cremations led by a Church of England minister, have remained stable at an average of 2,613 over 11 years from 2000 to 2010. Church funerals in the same period were also almost static with an average of 1,393.

The Venerable John Barton was an arch-deacon in Kent, and still lives in Canterbury. He is currently examining funeral services for the Church of England, meeting clergy around the country and gauging opinions.

He said: "I don't think the churches will soon be empty. How many pubs are closing in the UK and how many churches?"

He said the Church is still involved in around 90 per cent of funerals, which is a clear majority, and added: "We are here for everyone.

"When it comes to funerals there will be people who say they don't want God mentioned. I have been hearing from clergy who have spoken with mourners who didn't have a religious funeral say they were disappointed with the decision afterwards."

TESTING TIMES

BISHOP of Durham Dr Justin Welby was under no illusions that becoming the next Archbishop of Canterbury was going to be a stroll in the park.

But any hopes of a honeymoon period of calm as he takes over from outgoing Dr Rowan Williams next month disappeared at the General Synod this week.

By rejecting plans for women bishops, the Church found itself at the centre of derision and further years of damaging debate.

Robin Gill is professor of applied theology at the University of Kent.

He believes Dr Welby will need to exercise all his skills to reconcile the two sides. He said: "Many will be deeply disappointed about the failure of the General Synod to agree to proceed with the ordination of women as bishops.

"All but two of the diocese were in favour, as were almost all of the bishops and three-quarters of the clergy on the General Synod.

"Unfortunately the laity members ['ordinary' churchgoers represented in the government of the Church] fell a few votes short of the two-thirds in favour required. In other words, every group had a majority agreeing – in both churches and the population at large – for women to be bishops, yet the vote was still lost.

"A significant section of the laity on the General Synod is frankly out of step with others on this issue. That was also the case 20 years ago when the General Synod narrowly voted for women to be priests. It was the lay members who were most hesitant. To his credit, Archbishop George Carey detected this and managed to persuade some of his fellow evangelicals to drop their opposition. Without this the vote would have been lost. That did not happen this time around.

"I hope a way will be found to bring this back to the General Synod soon and that the new archbishop will be able to use his skills in reconciliation to change hearts. The Church of England will be deeply harmed if it cannot make this long-overdue change."

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HISTORY

Widow is set to coin it in after rare find could fetch £120,000

By Chrissie Daniels
chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk





RARE FIND: The Queen Anne Vigo five guineas was minted in 1703 with gold captured from Spanish galleons

WHEN a widow discovered an old coin of her late husband's in a chest of drawers, she could not have dreamed of what it was worth.

But when she took it, with two silver coins, to be valued by an auctioneer, it became apparent she had in her possession something of huge interest.

And next month it goes under the auctioneer's hammer – with an estimated value of up to £120,000.

The finder, who wishes to remain anonymous, had taken the coins to auctioneers Gorringes in Tunbridge Wells.

Upon inspection, staff member Leslie Gillham realised the gold coin was in fact one of the most collectable and expensive pieces in history – a Queen Anne Vigo five guineas.

The coin dates back to 1703 – when Queen Anne began her reign – and was made with gold captured from Spanish galleons at the Battle of Vigo Bay.

It is believed that less than 20 such coins are around today, with 15 of them in private ownership. Only six have been offered for sale in the UK in the past 50 years.

Mr Gillham said he was left speechless when he realised the importance of the discovery.

He said: "When the lady came in I was not wonderfully enthusiastic as most aren't worth anything. She gave me two silver crowns and I thought 'shame you haven't any gold coins'. Then she produced the five guinea piece which made my eyes nearly pop out of my head. My first thought was it must be a fake."

But after a second opinion, the coin, which is in 'very fine condition', was deemed genuine and valued at £80,000-£120,000.

Mr Gillham said: "The lady was very cool. The coins were extremely rare to start with. They do not know how many were made exactly."

Mr Gillham, who is an auctioneer, said there has been a lot of interest in the coin, especially from America.

He said the highest price one has sold for is £150,000 and that the mystery woman's coin has been described as in similar condition to one that sold for £130,000.

Gorringes will auction the coin in their East Sussex saleroom in Lewes on December 6.

CELEBRATING A GREAT VICTORY

On October 12, 1702, a powerful Anglo-Dutch fleet under the command of Admiral Sir George Rooke was returning from a failed attempt to capture Cadiz, when it engaged with and destroyed a Franco-Spanish bullion fleet sheltering in Vigo Bay on the north eastern coast of Spain.

Such was the overwhelming success of the action that, despite the fact the Spanish had already offloaded most of the treasure, it served as a major propaganda victory, distracting public attention from the previous disastrous assault on Cadiz.

Transported with great pageantry to the Royal Mint was just 7lb 8oz of the plundered gold along with 4,500lb of silver. It was received by Sir Isaac Newton, then Master of the Mint.

A royal warrant was issued causing the bullion to be coined and the word 'VIGO' to be inserted under Queen Anne's bust in order to 'continue to posterity the remembrance of that glorious action'.



MASTER: Sir Isaac Newton

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fury over live exports

ANIMAL rights campaigners were left fuming after hundreds of sheep on board a ferry was forced to turn around due to high winds.

The RSPCA, which is opposed to the live export trade, said the 700 animals were placed under huge stress as a result of being put on board the cross-Channel vessel at Ramsgate on Wednesday. The Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency said it had checked the animals and found no welfare issues.

'Bigfoot' hits Twitter

AFTER we exclusively revealed sightings of the 'Kentish Apeman' in Tunbridge Wells last week, his fame has spread nationwide after our story was picked up by the tabloid press.

And he has been spotted again - this time on online social networking website Twitter, where @RoaringApe is quickly gaining followers. To read our full story from last week see http://bit.ly/WBMKlg. You can follow us on Twitter too and receive all the latest headlines @kosmedia.

Star Minaj shoots video

RAPPER and singer Nicki Minaj spent four days filming the video to her latst single on the beach at Dungeness this month.

The superstar, best known for hits Super Bass and Starships, braved the inclement weather to shoot scenes for the song Freedom.

However, the imposing sight of the nuclear power station will not be spotted - it was edited out of the final clip.

MISSING

Website's clues to mystery dead

A NATIONAL website containing details of 24 unsolved Kent mystery death cases has gone live in a bid to spark new information to identify victims.

The Missing Persons Bureau says the site is the first in the UK dedicated to unidentified people - both dead and alive.

The Kent cases date between 1971 and 2002. The most historic involves a man aged between 30 and 50 with unknown ethnicity who was washed ashore at Lydd-on-Sea on October 5, 1971.

Just two cases involve women. One was a white European woman aged between 45 and 50, found in Folkestone Harbour on January 3, 1979. She'd been dead just a few hours, but despite appeals, was never identified.

And a woman with an ovarian cyst was found at the bottom of Dover cliffs in August 2000.

A male, in his early 60s, was recovered from the sea at Dover in October 1980, and others were found on railway lines, roadsides, and other public places. A spokesman for the site said: "It will bring closure to families and friends if an individual is identified." The site's address is www.missingpersons.police.uk.



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SPORT





MAN IN THE MIDDLE: KCCC's chief exec Jamie Clifford sent a letter to non-playing staff explaining the current economic problems the club is now facing

Storm clouds looming over cricket club as staff warned of redundancies

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

STAFF at Kent County Cricket Club have been told they may face the axe as the cash-strapped club are bracing themselves for "very disappointing" financial figures for the year.

The news will come as a surprise to supporters who thought the club was turning a corner after extensive redevelopment of its Canterbury headquarters – a multi-million pound move designed to turn it into a year-round business.

But the economic situation has hit it hard, along with a wet summer which washed out many of its key money-making matches.

The club's chief executive Jamie Clifford admitted a thorough review of its business could "unfortunately lead to a potential redundancy situation".

In a letter to staff, Mr Clifford said: "This has been an extremely tough year for the club and the financial results for 2011-12 are likely to be very disappointing. The combination of poor weather this summer and the difficult economic climate has knocked us off course.

"This is hugely frustrating because I believe that we are doing many things right; the ground redevelopment, recent sponsorship successes and improved playing performance have all been very encouraging.

"Ultimately though, the business cannot sustain annual losses and as such, we need to review how we are operating."

Now under way, that review will look at "all potential cost-saving measures" which will include "staff resourcing levels".

Mr Clifford added: "It's a cost saving process; you can do that in many ways.

"If I said we were reducing the amount of grass and fertiliser we ordered that could be one option. We are at the earliest stage in the process.

"My overriding priority is to consider the welfare of the staff. That's why they have had a letter as soon as any process that involves them starts."

Staff have been invited to offer up alternatives in a bid to reduce the pressure on the wage bill.

It is not the first time the club has been forced to take such action.

There were redundancies in both 2009 and 2010, as the club sought to balance its books in the face of a squeeze on spending.

However, last year it recorded an operating profit of £188,000, which was in stark contrast to the loss of £595,000 the previous year.

Mr Clifford added: "I'm very positive about where we are now compared to where we were nearly three years ago, which was no ground redevelopment, a side that had just been relegated and a club at a very low ebb.

"We were losing serious money but now we're moving in the right direction."

ON A STICKY WICKET...

- Rain ruins Tunbridge Wells Cricket Week in June – costing the club an estimated £50,000 alone.
- The poor weather and competition from the Olympics hits attendances.
- The club narrowly miss out on a money-spinning Twenty20 Cup quarter-final place.
- Promotion to Division One is missed by a whisker – finishing one place off the promotion spots.
- Recession puts hopes of a hotel at the St Lawrence on ice. It was considered a key money-maker.

ROB MAKES KEY MOVE

ROB Key confirmed he was stepping down as captain this week – and will be replaced by England international James Tredwell.

Key, 33, had been skipper for seven years, after taking over in 2005 from Dave Fulton.

He said he felt "worn out" after his time in charge, and had decided it was time to hand over the leadership.

He said: "At the end of the summer I was tired and had had enough really. I wanted to concentrate on my own game and myself."



For full details and interview with both the out-going and new captain, turn to our sports pages.

HEALTH

Pensioner wins support in row over loud music in gym

A PENSIONER who cut up his gym membership in a protest at the loud music being played during his early morning work-outs, has won the backing of Age UK.

David Richer, 75, was left fuming by the noisy music pumped into the gym at the Marsh Academy Leisure Centre in Romney Marsh.

He was so incensed he ended his £30-a-month membership and swapped his two-hour 7am workout for his push bike. And his stance was followed by other OAPs, who followed him out the door.

Age UK, which offers support services for the elderly, said Mr Richer was right to make a stand.

Paul Owen, chief executive officer for the Faversham branch, said: "I admire the pensioners for standing up for their rights. There needs to be a compromise to suit all tastes."

The gym is part of the local school and was built in 1982, partly funded by Sport England.

Keith Norman, director of finance and resources at the Marsh Academy, said: "We are very sorry that Mr Richer has decided to leave. The majority of people do prefer to have music playing – it's not desperately loud in our opinion.

"We have 500 members at the gym and we are sorry Mr Richer feels the way he does.

"The music played is fairly easy listening stuff. It's not heavy metal stuff."

Manager Jason Mahoney added: "We do have people who want us to play it louder, and some want it quieter. We can't please all the people all the time."

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POLICING

PCC Barnes promises personal touch as link between us and police

By Marijke Cox
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"EVERY family and every community; their problems are my problems" – that's the message from Kent's new Police and Crime Commissioner, Ann Barnes.

The former teacher, who chaired the Kent Police Authority for six years, stormed to victory in the first-ever PCC election last week, beating off rivals with a huge 45.9 per cent of the vote in the first count.

Going head-to-head with Conservative rival Craig Mackinlay in the second count, the independent candidate secured a massive 65.5 per cent.

Speaking to KoS in the week she was sworn into the office, she said this was a new beginning, not just for her, but for people in Kent.

"For the first time there will be a person people can go to with their problems in policing; one person to be the link to the force," she said.

"My intentions are quite clear; every family and every community – their problems are my problems. So often people who are in public service positions sit at the top of the hierarchy, away from the public – I will be out there in the community.

"Kent is going to have the most accessible PCC in the country. I will be that first link for people in Kent.

"There's a lot to do. I haven't made sweeping promises I won't keep – we see that all the time in politics. I made specific promises in response to genuine needs in Kent."

She admitted times were tough financially, with Kent Police having to make huge savings amounting to £50 million over four years, which has resulted in officer and civilian job losses.

"Savings have already been delivered in Kent Police, but what does worry me is that this government may cut police funding more," said Mrs Barnes.

"I will fight that to the bitter end to ensure visible community policing in Kent."

Mrs Barnes, from Lyminge near Folkestone, replaces the Kent Police Authority. She is responsible for governing the local police force and holding the Chief Constable to account for the performance of Kent Police.

She has the power to hire and fire the Chief Constable, draw up and publish a police and crime plan, set the policing priorities and detail how and where money is spent.

Chief Constable Ian Learmonth remains responsible for operational matters, but Mrs Barnes holds the force to account and is "the voice of the people".

She will pick up an £85,000 salary and will be up for re-election in May 2014, when the next PCC poll will be held to coincide with local council elections.

Her activities will be scrutinised by the Police and Crime Panel, made up of councillors from all the districts in Kent and a number of independent members.

Mrs Barnes said: "Policing is a very complex world. Kent Police has a budget of £270m – that's a lot of money, but setting the budget and the policing plan is tricky to do.

"Somebody coming into this with no experience would have struggled; they would have had to have spent time having to learn how to do this.

"I don't, I'm used to doing it, I've got that under my belt already so I can push on and use this time wisely, start the hard work in delivering my promises."

Mrs Barnes said she will work to make policing accessible.

"I will map the places and times when people can access police, so people in every ward know when and where they can speak to their local PCSO and police officers.

"I will set up local policing boards to allow the public to have more say in the different areas of Kent. This county has three diverse areas; west Kent is different to north Kent, for example, and they are different to south Kent.

"People who sit on these local boards would come from those areas.

"I'm also setting up a fleet of 'mini-mobiles' to travel to rural areas and deal with policing issues there. We have communities which are quite isolated."

Mrs Barnes said the process for taking on a youth police and crime commissioner – one of her pledges before the election – would soon start.

"I want them to be the face of Kent's young people and the link between young people and the police. They will bridge the gap," she said.

"I'm quite open-minded about who it could be; it could be a school leaver, a university graduate or someone who doesn't have a job.

"Young people commit crime, but young people are also victims of crime."

She said she will support victims by giving them the means to see progress in police investigations.

■ For full round-up of results see http://bit.ly/T3Vk6y.

Spoilt ballot papers sign of voters' anger

FIGURES for last week's Police and Crime Commissioner poll have revealed thousands of people spoiled their ballot papers.

In the first count of the supplementary vote system, some 3,931 voters spoiled their papers, making them void by either marking them incorrectly or failing to cast a vote altogether.

More than 6,440 voters, failed to choose a preference in the second choice option.

While spoiled papers are not unusual in an election, PCC Ann Barnes said some of these spoiled papers were in protest.

"I get cross when I hear people talking about apathy in these elections. It wasn't apathy, it was anger and that was seen in the number of spoiled ballots," she said.

"People wanted to vote, but they didn't know about the elections; they didn't know much about the role; it was held in November when elections aren't usually held. People damaged their votes in anger.

"This was supposed to an important election, but did you ever hear the Prime Minister talking about it?"

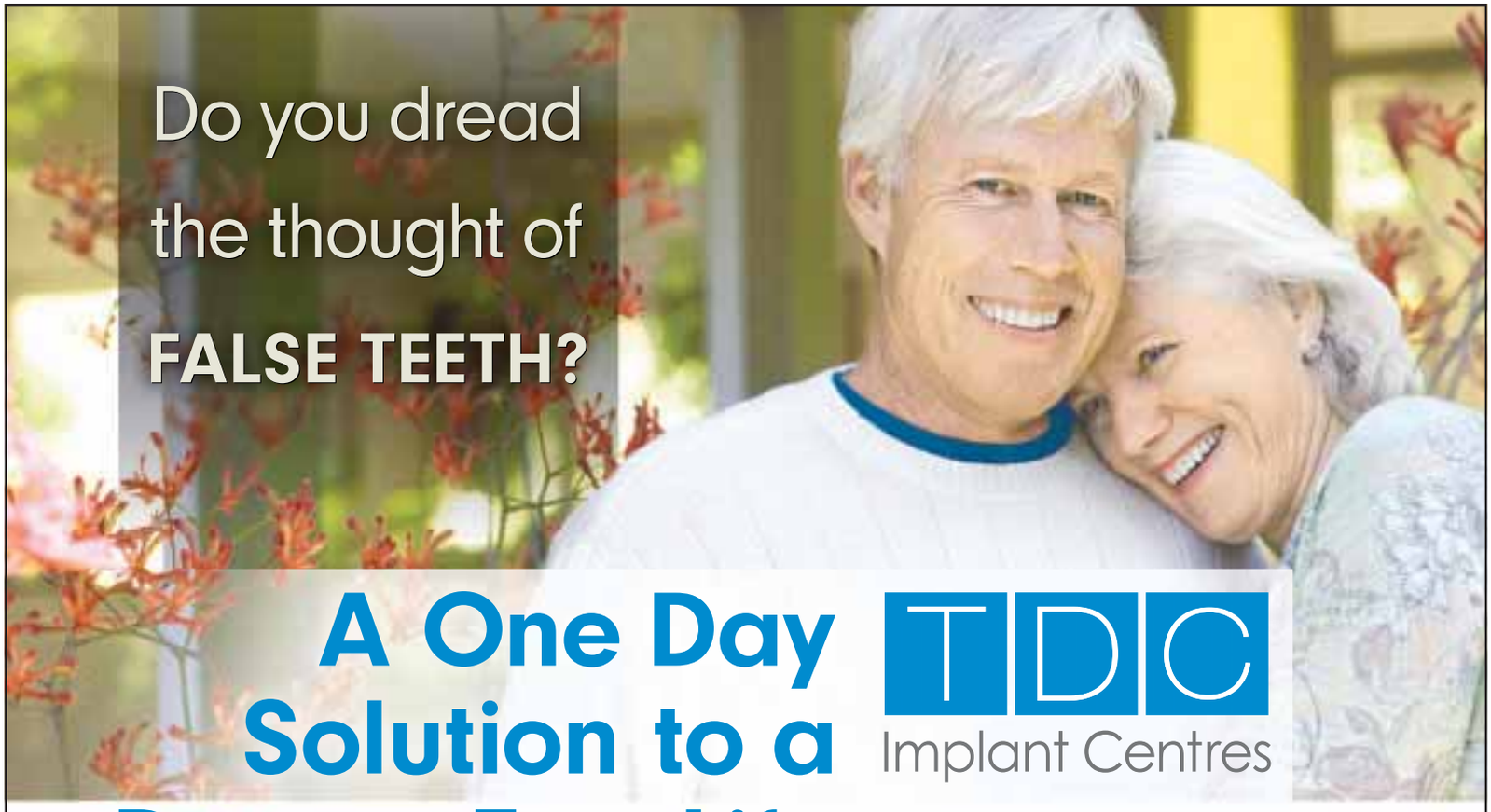
She added: "The people spoke; they did not want a political party. I felt humbled by the confidence people have shown in me."

A measly 16.3 per cent of the Kent electorate – just 208,782 of 1.2 million eligible to vote – turned out to the polls last week.



WINNING WAYS: Ann Barnes during last week's PCC election count where she stormed to victory and became the county's first Police and Crime Commissioner



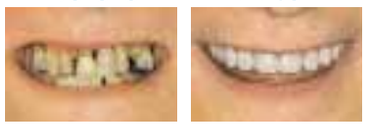


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SPIRITUALISM

Mum reveals how dead son writes her letters from beyond the grave

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

WHEN Sally Woodmansee's son was tragically killed in a car crash two years ago she, like anyone to suffer bereavement, thought it was the last she would ever see or hear from her beloved boy.

But in what is thought to be an extraordinary spiritual phenomenon, the 52-year-old claims her dead son Tony is communicating with her from beyond the grave – writing her letters every day.

Mum-of-five Mrs Woodmansee, from Herne Bay, says Tony, who was just 20 when he died, "speaks" to her through what is known as "automatic spiritual writing".

Every morning at 6am, she sits in a darkened room with a notepad and pen. Her arm starts to glide, writing page after page of thoughtful script.

The hairdresser insists she has no control over her arm and that, instead, Tony is in control, sending her messages from the afterlife.

"I'd never been spiritual before and I can understand if people are sceptical. It's so surreal," she said.

"There was no explanation when it started happening. My arm made a creaking, grinding noise and I thought it was a trapped nerve. I'd look down and my arm would be hovering. But the overwhelming sense of calm I felt when it happened – all the turmoil disappeared – I couldn't explain it."

It started happening when she arrived back from hospital after Tony passed away. The former Herne Bay High pupil suffered serious head injuries in a car crash on the A291 Canterbury Road on October 28, 2010, in which he was a passenger.

According to the family, unusual things started to happen almost immediately after his death.

At his funeral, the congregation was left baffled by strange events.

"The CD kept skipping back to just two of the songs," said Mrs Woodmansee. "Then the vicar kept stopping through her readings – it would take her minutes to start up again.

"I looked over at my eldest son and he was sniggering, but I thought it was nerves. Oliver later told me that as he'd walked into the funeral he'd said to Tony that if he was there and okay, to send a message by messing with the music or making the vicar forget her words. It was him sending a message, but it took me a while to accept it was really happening."

It wasn't until two of Tony's friends went to see a medium that Mrs Woodmansee was convinced her dead son was trying to get in touch with her.

"Two girls had booked to see a medium before Tony passed and it fell on the day of the funeral," she said. "The medium said a young man called Tony who had died in a car crash had come through and had done something strange – he had sprinkled Oxo cubes on her head. I knew straight away it was him.

"Tony had Oxo cubes in everything. The first time I went shopping after he passed I was unpacking food and a box of Oxo cubes fell off the shelf."

When things started to happen every day, Mrs Woodmansee decided to visit the medium herself, convinced her son was trying to make contact.

"When I got there she said she was glad I had come; Tony had been hassling her all the time. There were things she said about him she just couldn't have known. Only I knew.

"I decided to tell her about my arm, which is when she explained automatic spiritual writing. She said Tony wanted me to ask him a question. I needed to sit in a dark room with a notepad and pen."

So the next morning that's what Mrs Woodmansee did.

"It took about seven or eight minutes before anything happened, but then my arm started to move. It felt like I was making huge movements and afterwards I felt drained."

When she looked at the pad, a faint outline of the word 'Tony' had been written. Amazed, she did the same thing every morning and now has 12 A4 notebooks packed with profound statements 'from her son' as well as loving messages.

Mrs Woodmansee says she doesn't know what has been written until she reads it afterwards. Amazingly, she can often sit for an hour with her arm held up and writing – something most people would struggle with.

Mrs Woodmansee has co-written an ebook called Talking to Tony with former national journalist Laurie Stone, from Blean, telling her incredible story. In just one week, more than 1,000 copies have been sold.

"I would never want to upset anyone but I have been overwhelmed by the support," she said. "It gives some understanding as to what happens.

"For me, I know my fate, I know I will see Tony again and that gives me strength. Nothing makes the pain of losing a child any easier, but this provides some understanding of where he is. He tells me he has the best of both worlds."

■ **Talking to Tony is available from Amazon for the Kindle and other devices using the Kindle App. It is priced at £5.14.**



MOTHER'S LOVE: Sally Woodmansee, Tony's mum

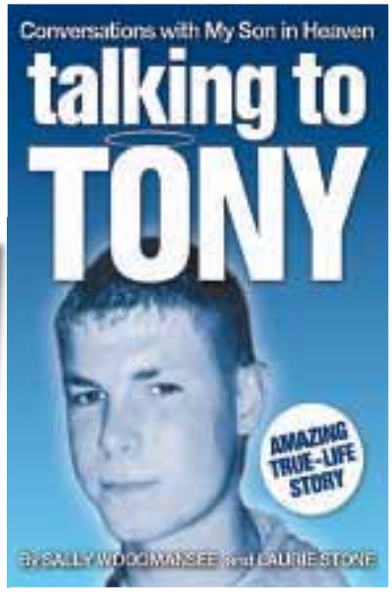
Tony writes...

"POSITIVITY and hope create strength. People are getting weak by their own doing. It really is time for change. It is this simple.

Lose the hate and find the love. Feelings don't disappear as if by magic – if there were issues and troubles with anyone before, they mellow and become far less important.

We must realise that a lot of troubles and worries aren't half as serious or necessary as we make them out to be. It is magnified by negativity.

It becomes far easier to resolve differences once you are here. There aren't added pressures here, so we can see everything more clearly."



REVELATION: Sally's book on the phenomenon

REASONING BEHIND AUTOMATIC SPIRITUAL WRITING

MEDIUMS believe this is a way of communicating with the spirit world using a pen and paper.

According to Psychic Victoria, from Ashford, it involves allowing the spirit to flow through a person directly to their hand in order to guide and create words.

She said: "Spirits do not enter inside your physical body, but will come very close to you.

"Their hand will come into contact with yours and then write through your hand that is holding the pen.

"The words that are written will not be of your own thoughts, and the feeling that accompanies this will be unmistakable."

Patsy Fletcher

If you are the Patsy of Biggin Hill and Cyprus & you remember Chris K, why not drop me a line? I'm at cskraf33@gmail.com and am really looking forward to catching up with you.

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WELFARE

PM proposals to cut benefits to the under-25s are slammed by charities

By Dean Kilpatrick
dean.kilpatrick@archant.co.uk

THOUSANDS of young people in the county are at risk of being made homeless if government cuts to housing benefits are implemented, according to a Kent charity.

Proposals – which would see all under 25-year-old claimants taken off the welfare bill – have been put forward by Prime Minister David Cameron in the latest round of cost-cutting measures to ease the state's benefits bill.

But critics of the idea say it could leave vulnerable youngsters in "dire straits".

There are just over 10,000 claimants of housing benefits under 25 in Kent, with the average recipient receiving £80 a week to help keep a roof over their head.

But suggestions young people should remain living with their parents to ease the financial burden on the state has been brought into question by the chief executive of Kent and Medway homeless charity Porchlight.

He said many youngsters dependent on the benefit have fled their family as a result of violence or abuse.



COST-CUTTING: David Cameron

Mike Barrett said: "I do not think the policy has been thought through.

"We work closely with nearly 2,500 people a year, and about 30 per cent of them are in that age group. If they could go back home, they would.

"I fully understand what the government is trying to do in respect of setting youngsters incentives to work, but when rents are too huge and mortgages unavailable, their only help is these benefits.

"It's going to cost the government more in the long run."

Mr Barrett added that more people were feeling the effects of the economic downturn and getting in touch with the charity, adding that people from all walks of life are asking for help.

He said: "I had hoped around 18 months ago that it had peaked, but the number of people calling is going up all the time."

Chief executive of national homeless people charity Crisis, Leslie Morphy, added: "There is no way that those fleeing abusive home lives or those whose parents can't house them could be protected if this goes ahead.

"These are people who just need a little help as they start out on their adult lives, not an arbitrary and ill thought hrough cut."

The government believes scrapping the benefit for under-25s would save the state nearly £2 billion a year, although no firm decision on the idea had been made as yet.

A Department for Work and Pensions spokesman said: "We're looking at a range of options for future reforms to the welfare system – changing the eligibility criteria for housing benefit is one of these. Any changes would affect future claimants only and we would still ensure that vulnerable people remain protected."

> **I do not think the policy has been thought through. If they could go back home, they would.**
> **Their only help is these benefits. It's going to cost the government more in the long run.**
>
> **MIKE BARRETT,** PORCHLIGHT

BENEFITS STIGMA

A QUARTER of people eligible for state benefits have not claimed money they are entitled to because of the stigma attached to them, according to a University of Kent study.

Research carried out by Dr Ben Baumberg discovered that one in four people have either delayed claiming or refused to do so because of the fear of being associated with the so-called benefits culture.

Dr Baumberg said: "When questioned, we found the public vastly overestimate the numbers of people 'claiming falsely or committing fraud', with one in five believing a majority of claims to be outright fraudulent."

Head of policy at non-profit service Turn2us, Rob Tolan, said: "At a human level, stigma is resulting in thousands of elderly, sick and disabled people skipping meals or keeping the heating off, lest they be tarred with the 'scrounger' brush.

"One lady we helped, who was left disabled by a brain tumour, ate porridge five nights a week, rather than ask for help."

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HISTORY

Could auction see the final chapter in life of famous 'Dickens Inn' pub?

By Chrissie Daniels
chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

A FIRE damaged pub – believed to have been a popular haunt of Charles Dickens – is going under the hammer next month.

The Crispin and Crispianus, also know as 'Dickens Inn', burnt down in March last year, leaving extensive damage to the roof of the historic building in the heart of Strood.

It took more than 40 firefighters to extinguish the blaze.

But on December 10, current owners Middlehill Building Limited based in Salford will put it up for auction at a sale staged at the Kent County Showground at Detling. It has a guide price of £65,000-£75,000.

It presents a chance to own a pub visited by the great author, who spent time as a child in Chatham, before seeing out his life at his family home in nearby Higham.

The Grade II-listed building, which was built in the 19th century, closed in 2010, the year before the fire, due to dwindling trade.

It is currently covered in scaffolding.

Locals are hoping it will be bought by someone who can restore it to its former glory, but there are concerns it could be about to open its final chapter.

A spokeswoman for English Heritage said, although unlikely, the pub could be bulldozed if the new owners were to get permission.

But Sherry Lucas, general manager at Dickens' World in Chatham – an attraction dedicated to works created by the Victorian author – said the pub is a piece of history and needs someone to restore it.



THIS BLEAK HOUSE: The Crispin and Crispianus in Strood, that burnt down in March last year, has a guide price of £65,000-£75,000 when it goes under the hammer on December 10

She said: "With its Dickens connections, if they restored it to a very good level and brought back its Victorian roots it would get a lot of business.

"But if it stays there for too long it will end up being knocked down because the elements will have got to it."

The auctioneers behind the sale, Clive Emson, described the building as being "severely fire damaged".

A Medway Council spokesman added: "We have not been happy about the lack of progress on this project and we hope any new owner will be committed to organising repairs without delay. The new owner will be obliged to carry out a number of repairs and improvements."

OLD HAUNT OF AUTHOR

THE pub dates back to the 13th century and is named after the patron saints of shoemakers.

According to historians, the first tenancy was given to Ralph Meakin and two others in 1276, for services to the Knights Templar.

It went through a variety of guises, including a draper's shop and shoemakers, and is understood to have first acquired a licence to sell ale in 1556.

Its main claim to fame, however, is its link with Dickens, who would frequently visit when he lived at Gad's Hill Place in the mid-19th century.

Articles at the time reported how Dickens would often call in for a drink and "sit in the corner, opposite the fireplace, looking at nothing and seeing everything".

Dickens makes reference to the pub in a collection of short stories entitled The Young Commercial Traveller.

According to a letter from the Dickens' Fellowship published in 1945, he once took pity on a young mother sheltering during a thunderstorm, invited her in, bought her a brandy and gave her a shilling.

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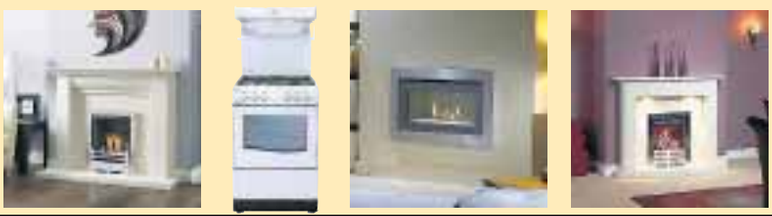
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POLITICS

After controversial 'party' pack for Thatcher's death, now comes Blair arrest kit

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By Chrissie Daniels
chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

LOOKING for a stocking filler for the politically motivated? Then a gift set containing all you need to carry out a citizen's arrest on former Prime Minister Tony Blair hits the shelves next month.

The Arrest Tony Blair DIY kit comes complete with hand-cuffs, protective gloves and instructions, and is the latest product from a firm in Margate.

The packaging tells buyers to "grab him, cuff him, keep him".

Those behind the product – which goes on sale for £10 from Saturday, December 1 – say the kit is designed for those who believe Mr Blair is a "war criminal" for allowing British troops to join US forces in the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

The firm selling the range is Red Stuff Shop, the trading name of Screaming Seagull Press Ltd, a trade union volunteer workers' co-operative.



CONTROVERSIAL: The Arrest Tony Blair kit has been called a 'cheap trick'

It has made headlines in the past for producing a controversial party pack to be used when ex-Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher dies.

The new kit warns potential arresters not to "assault, hit, pummel or kick" Mr Blair and to show respect to any security personnel who may be protecting him.

Jon Flaig, of the Red Stuff Shop, said: "The kit is a bit of fun – but it does have a serious side, too.

"Under international law most people would say that by taking us into the Iraq war Tony Blair is guilty of a crime against peace so why isn't he up in court for it?"

But Flaig denied that he is inciting people to commit violence against the former PM.

"This is about making a citizen's arrest, which anyone is entitled to do. We specifically warn people against assaulting Blair," he said.

But former Gillingham Labour MP Paul Clark, who served under Mr Blair's administration, hit out at the kit. He said: "This is not about serious issues or looking at what was behind the decisions made. This is a cheap trick to get people to spend their money. People should see it for what it is. There are other ways of making a protest and making your views known."

WAR CONTINUES TO HAUNT FORMER PM

TONY Blair's ten-year reign as Prime Minister was a watershed moment in politics, transforming the fortunes of the Labour Party and returning them to power after an 18-year absence.

But his time in Downing Street will forever be dogged by his decision to take British forces into conflict in Iraq.

Earlier this year, he was confronted by an intruder as he gave evidence at the Leveson Inquiry into press standards, who accused him of being a "war criminal".

Public appearances he makes in the UK are also dogged by protestors.

There is even a website dedicated to arresting the former Prime Minister with cash prizes up for grabs for anyone who can prove they attempted a citizen's arrest.



Picture: WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM/SWISS-IMAGE.CH



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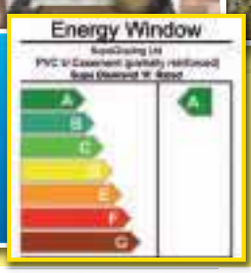
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News



ON THE WING: Stephen Brown's atmospheric photograph is called American Eagle in the Dark

PHOTOGRAPHY

Duo watch the birdie

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

TV star and wildlife expert Chris Packham will be one of the judges selecting the winner of this year's RSPCA Young Photographer Awards.

And among those vying for honours will be these two stunning images, taken by youngsters in Kent.

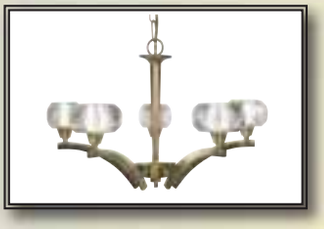
A shortlist of 31 photographs have been selected from thousands of entries, with the winners being named at a special ceremony next month.

Among them are eight-year-old Stephen Brown from Faversham and his American Eagle in the Dark image in the under-12s category.

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News



IN A FLAP: Teenage Katie Alston called her photograph Two Old Birds Sat on a Park Bench

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hoping to impress with her Two Old Birds Sat on a Park Bench picture in the 12-15-year-olds category.

The winners will be unveiled at the RSPCA's offices near Horsham on December 14.

Mr Packham said: "One of the things I love most is that young people tend to use the resources on their doorstep.

"A lot of adults feel they have to go to Africa and photograph a leopard or something, but kids do not have these options.

"Most of them have no choice but to stick to their back yard and as a result we see really simple but often very beautiful pictures of garden wildlife like flies, spiders, birds and ants."

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MILITARY

Youngster fights to restore graves of our brave VC heroes

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

HE may only be 12, but George Taylor is ensuring the county's bravest war heroes are not forgotten.

The youngster is already responsible for the upkeep of 29 of the graves of those awarded the Victoria Cross – the highest military honour for valour in the face of the enemy.

And now he has launched a campaign to restore the derelict grave of a soldier awarded the VC during World War One.

He was so moved by the condition of the final resting place of Lt Col Arthur Drummond Borton, in St Mary's Church, Hunton, near Maidstone, he is looking to raise money for its refurbishment

The graves of VC winners who died in combat are maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission – but those who lived on are the responsibility of their family. According to records, the Borton family died out with the last known member being a niece called Dorothea who was last heard of in a London nursing home in 1973.



Pictures: MIKE GUNNILL

IN MEMORY: George Taylor believes war hero Arthur Drummond Borton deserves better for his grave, pictured top

George, from Northfleet, was inspired to help former servicemen at the age of eight when he was moved to tears by a news item about a veteran having to sell his medals to pay heating bills.

Pictures of a vandalised VC holder's grave further upset him and he contacted the Victoria Cross Association asking how he could help.

Dave Taylor, George's father, said: "They said it all comes down to money, so he started sending in £5 of his pocket money each month. He then became the youngest person in the UK tasked with tracking down derelict graves of VC holders and reporting on their condition."

George went online to locate the final resting places of the VC holders buried in Kent and followed up with visits. It was then he encountered Lt Col Borton's memorial, covered in rotting foliage with its inscription all but erased.

George said: "It's just so wrong and I don't like it. After all he went through surely he must deserve better than this?"



He then started his fundraising. George's parents and sister Katie, 10, are behind his activities, which have also made classmates at Northfleet Technical College proud.

His interest in the military was sparked by museum visits with his father and a family with a strong background of service.

George has written about the plight of war veterans to Prime Minister David Cameron and US President Barack Obama.

He has also met the Queen, who sent him a good luck telegram before a sponsored walk, and thrown poppies into the Trafalgar Sqaure fountains as part of Remembrance Day.

George, who has written to MI6 asking for work experience and wants to be a policeman "in the armed response unit" said: "I hate the thought of people in the forces thinking no-one cares."

■ **See www.justgiving.com/George-Taylor7 to help.**

LIFE ON THE FRONTLINE

ARTHUR Drummond Borton was born in Chevening, near Sevenoaks, on July 1, 1883, and educated at Eton and the Royal Military College Sandhurst, before being commissioned into the 60th Rifles, with whom he served in the South African War.

Retiring from the Army in 1910, he rejoined in 1914 and after service with the King's Royal Rifles he became an observer with the Royal Flying Corps in France, where he broke his neck in three places and was declared unfit.



Despite this he went to Gallipoli as a Lieutenant Commander in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve where he won the DSO.

Next appointed Army Second-in-Command of the 2nd/22nd London Regiment in June 1916, he served in France and Palestine. Lt Col Borton won his VC at Tel-el-Sheria, Palestine, on November 7, 1917, when he led his attacking companies against a strongly held enemy position as the British fought an army of Ottoman Turks. He was decorated by King George V and later served in the North Russian campaign of 1919.

He was a pall bearer at the burial of the Unknown Warrior on November 11, 1920.

The hero died on January 5, 1933, in Southwold, Suffolk, and his award is in the regimental museum at Clandon in Surrey.

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TECHNOLOGY

Historic documents come alive at touch of a button

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A HIGH-tech system designed to allow everyone to explore rare and ancient documents, has been created by academics.

Experts at the University of Kent have developed a system to digitise documents which previously could only be studied under severe restrictions due to their delicate and valuable nature.

The new software system, called DocExplore, means the files can stop gathering dust and be easily accessed alongside detailed explanations.

It's an ambitious project led by Dr Richard Guest and Professor Michael Fairhurst from the university's school of engineering and digital arts. It has just been launched at an international workshop in Rouen, France, and is set to move in to its next phase.



EXPLORE: The software provides extra information with your documents

Unveiling the system, Dr Guest said: "We were delighted to present the software to academics, scholars and museum curators at the workshop which acted as a unique backdrop to share experiences and knowledge on exploring historical documents from within a range of disciplines."

The next stage involves a public exhibition for Canterbury residents to access documents held in the cathedral's archives using touch screens.

Dr Guest said the system acts so that examining the documents has the 'feel' of having it right in front of the user. He said it simulates, as far as possible, the experience of accessing the physical object itself. But users can see much more than the document – they can access translations and transcriptions, read more about the period in which it was written, its contents and who would have used it at the time by using the additional text, picture, sound and video resources that are a feature of the system.

It also allows scholars to explore many unique features of a document such as handwriting analysis and text searching.

Dr Guest said: "We are extremely excited to be entering the final phase of the DocExplore project, which will open up rich collections of key documents and make them digitally accessible to the public.

"The people of Kent will be able to learn and interact with significant documents, whilst exploring the history of the region through its records dating back many centuries."

The University of Kent teamed up with the University of Rouen to develop the software.

In addition to showcasing the newly-developed software, the workshop encouraged cross-Channel dialogue for the first time between professionals involved in the development of techniques to support the analysis and management of digital documents.

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MUSIC

How rock legend Jimi Hendrix struck a chord with county as fans prepare to mark his 70th

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

HE IS one of rock music's most iconic performers; famed for scintilliating live performances and inspiring generations to take up the guitar.

But his tragic death at just 27 robbed the world of Jimi Hendrix. Had he survived, this Tuesday would have been his 70th birthday.

What is a little known part of the guitar maestro's life is his time spent in the county – both due to his friendship with Noel Redding, guitarist in the Jimi Hendrix Experience, who was born and grew up Folkestone – but also the house Hendrix rented in a Kent quiet village.

Coblers, in hamlet of Lymbridge Green, being Folkestone and Ashford, was rented by Hendrix a little over a year before his death. Its name a poorly spelt joke.

For the 14 months he stayed there, it provided Hendrix with a rural retreat from the high life of London where his flat was a haven for the likes of fellow musicians Mick Jagger, Eric Clapton and Paul McCartney.

The five-bedroom, 16th century farmhouse was enlarged after his death and is now valued at around £1 million.

FILM SCREENING OF LEGENDARY CONCERT

FANS of Hendrix can get to see the star on the big screen and in high-definition when his iconic performance at Woodstock is shown on the cinema at shopping complex Bluewater.

To mark his 70th anniversary, the film will be screened on Thursday and the following Tuesday, at 7.30pm.

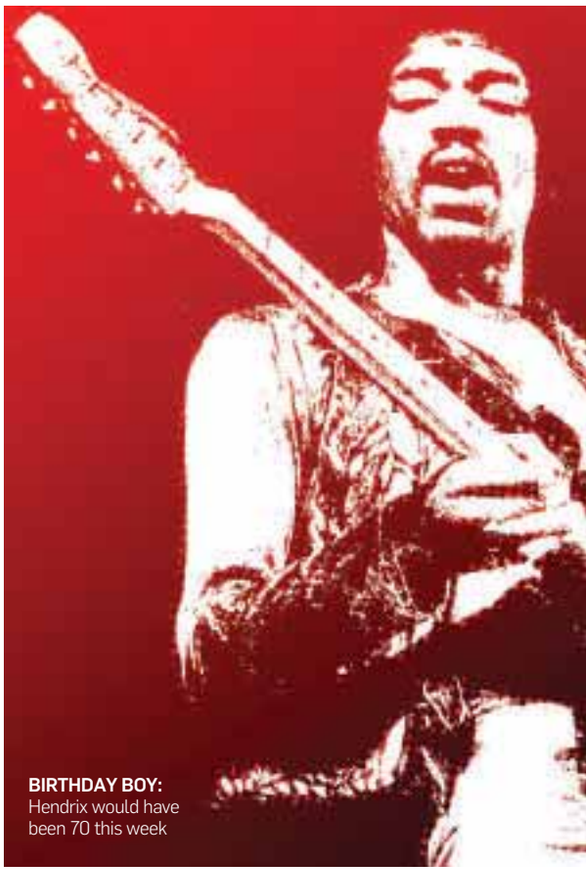
Filmed at the US festival in 1969, the archive footage, captured by Academy Award-winning director Michael Wadleigh, will be shown uninterrupted in its original performance sequence.

Hendrix 70: Live at Woodstock will include the Road To Woodstock documentary, directed by Grammy Award-winner Bob Smeaton, and will feature extensive footage and interviews revealing the difficulties in staging the legendary festival and securing Hendrix as the headliner.



ROCK ON: Hendrix plays Woodstock

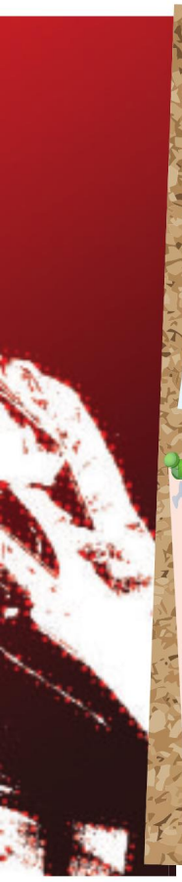
The concert includes explosive renditions of Voodoo Child (Slight Return), Purple Haze and Foxy Lady as well as Hendrix's dramatic interpretation of the US national anthem, the Star Spangled Banner.



BIRTHDAY BOY: Hendrix would have been 70 this week



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Jimi's Kent dates

December 31, 1966
Hillside Social Club, Folkestone
January 4, 1967
Bromel Club, Bromel Court Hotel, Bromley
January 27, 1967
Chislehurst Caves, Chislehurst
February 8, 1967
Bromel Club, Bromley
December 1, 1967
Central Hall,Chatham
(Performed on the bill which also included The Move and Pink Floyd)

Legend's untimely end

AT the very peak of his powers, Hendrix became a victim of the excesses which have robbed the world of so many talents.

At just 27, Hendrix choked to death on his own vomit in the flat of his girlfriend, Monika Dannemann.

There are conflicting reports as to just when he died, but he was found by police and ambulance at around 11.30am on September 18, 1970. It is believed he had been dead for some time. He had been at a party the night before.

Dannemann committed suicide in 1996.



Noel Redding

BORN in Folkestone, Noel Redding joined Hendrix's band in 1966, and performed with the Jimi Hendrix Experience until 1969. He was the first to join — switching to playing bass — and the first to leave.

He first performed at Hythe Youth Club and at his school, the Harvey Grammar, after learning the violin, mandolin and eventually guitar.

His distinctive style saw him credited with considerable influence over the Hendrix sound, performing on Hendrix's three landmark albums — Are You Experienced?, Axis: Bold as Love and Electric Ladyland.

He was found dead at the home in Ireland he had retired to, in 2003.

He suffered from "shock haemorrhage due to oesophageal varices in reaction to cirrhosis of the liver".

He was 57-years-old.

EDUCATION

Rise in tuition fees sees a drop in would-be students as debt deters applicants

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

UNIVERSITY applications across the county have taken a steep dip since tuition fees trebled.

A campaign group called Ambitious Minds compiled a national list broken down by parliamentary constituency.

It found Canterbury fared the worst in the county with a fall of just over 18 per cent from 4,017 in 2011 to 3,264.

South Thanet is the next worst with a 17 per cent drop from 3,461 to 2,848, followed by Folkestone and Hythe with a 16 per cent drop to just under 3,000, and Rochester and Strood with a 15 per cent decline. North Thanet is almost 14 per cent, Dover 12 per cent, Dartford at almost 10 per cent, Gillingham and Rainham on nine per cent, Gravesham along with Maidstone and the Weald on eight per cent.



DROP: University applications have reduced considerably

The rest of the county have similar figures with Sevenoaks recording the lowest drop at just over four per cent.

Canterbury MP Julian Brazier said: "For some it may well be a struggle, but if this makes people think a little about whether university is right for them, given high levels of unemployment among graduates, that may not be a bad thing."

Sean McGuire is the chief executive of Ambitious Minds.

He said: "Going to university is no longer an automatic choice for a teenager with good A-levels.

"It has become an investment decision that must be made by the family as an economic unit, and it is a decision that has significant risk.

"Young people who choose to go to university are burdening themselves with debts of more than £30,000 that will remain with them for decades. The figures demonstrate that trebling the cap on tuition fees has had a significant effect on capping aspirations.

"This concern is particularly acute in a fragile jobs market characterised by high rates of youth and graduate unemployment that shows little sign of sustained improvement."

He said just 21 of the 533 constituencies in England saw an increase.

The University of Greenwich and University of Kent declined to comment on the figures.

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News



SPOT ON: Theo Walcott and Adam Candler before the game

SPORT

Gunners' fan-tastic

ADAM Candler met Arsenal goalscoring hero Theo Walcott and lead the north London side onto the pitch in front of a sell-out crowd last weekend - and then watched his team thrash their arch-rivals Spurs 5-2.

The eight-year-old from Gillingham was picked at random from over 20,000 young Arsenal fans to be the mascot for the eagerly anticipated clash.

He said: "It was just brilliant to have been chosen to be the mascot and to walk the team out onto the pitch. I had a great day, especially as we won."

England ace Theo Walcott added: "It was great to meet Adam. I just hope he enjoyed the win as much as the players did."

He also received a team kit and player autographs.

COURT

Extradition in flytipper case

A POLISH man investigated for dumping car tyres in Chatham ended up being extradited to his homeland after it transpired there was a warrant out for his arrest.

Mariusz Sobolewski, owner of VM Autos, failed to show up in court on a flytipping charge.

It then emerged he was wanted for an offence in Poland, leading to his extradition.

RETAIL

Shoppers get free parking

SHOPPERS across Swale will be able to benefit from free car parking in council run car parks in the run up to Christmas.

Swale Borough Council says free parking will be available after 3pm in a bid to help boost local traders.

'Free after three' will run from December 15 to Christmas Eve. In addition, there will be free Sunday parking on December 16 and 23.

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FOOD

Small boat fishermen lobby Brussels for fair deal

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

FLEETS of fishermen working the rich seas around the county are hoping European chiefs make a landmark change to fishing laws to ensure small boats get a fair deal.

In the latest chapter of the long-running row over how our seas are fished, one leading Kent fisherman insists the controversial quota system should be scrapped and started again.

The chairman of the Whitstable Fishermen's Association, Phil Edwards, was speaking after a Greenpeace mission to Brussels calling on the EU to make life fairer for operators of small boats under 10 metres.

Currently, three quarters of the British fishing fleet, including those in Kent, is made up of small boats, yet they are allowed to catch just four per cent of stocks.

Greenpeace took a delegation of British fishermen to Brussels to demand a new fisheries policy that is fairer to small-scale coastal fishermen. They joined fishermen from across Europe.



ACTION: A delegation of British fishermen joined others from around Europe to appeal to EU chiefs

They said 96 per cent of stocks are controlled by a handful of what are called 'producer organisations', which tend to represent larger boats.

The small boat fishermen are asking that the once-in-a-decade reform of the EU's Common Fisheries Policy be used as a unique opportunity to ensure those who fish sustainably have a right to fish; bringing an end to what they say are harmful subsidies and unsustainable and destructive practices; and ensuring the restoration of the health of seas in Europe and the rest of the world.

Mr Edwards said: "The whole system needs to be thought out again. It is too complicated and unfair to those with small boats. I have a mountain of paperwork to do all the time, and that's while battling the odds to make a living."

He said the system of quotas and leasing quotas from other boats is much too involved, adding: "I think successive governments are just hoping the small fishermen simply give up and go away. The problems are continually swept under the carpet."

Jerry Percy, of NUTFA, the organisation representing hundreds of under-10 metre vessels in the UK, said: "Fishing is a way of life that small-scale fishermen have practiced for generations and that is threatened as never before.

"While not being caused by artisanal fishermen, overfishing has had a disproportionate effect on their ability to survive. If any boats need to stop fishing, it shouldn't be the smaller, low-impact boats that provide fish and directly support communities."

WHAT ARE FISHING QUOTAS?

IN order to protect stocks of certain fish, European fishing policy dictates each country which fishes in European waters, has a European directive determining how much fish in terms of weight are caught and at what time of the year.



The quota applies to the maximum weight of a particular species caught on any trip or over any season.

Punishments for over-fishing – and spot checks regularly occur – are severe, and include large fines and even having boats impounded. Therefore, if quotas are exceeded, fishermen are forced to simply throw back the excess fish. Frequently these fish will already be dead – a situation which is widely criticised.



KENT **REMEMBERED**



FAMILY: Curator Alice Martin with an oil portrait of Leonard Jerome, Churchill's American grandfather

International bloodlines converged to create a truly remarkable leader

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A MAJOR exhibition at the home of Winston Churchill, examining his little known Anglo-American links, is under way.

The display is called In the Blood and is the first-ever temporary exhibition at Chartwell.

It explores the extraordinary story of Churchill's Anglo-American ancestry and considers how the two branches of his family – the Jeromes of New York and the Dukes of Marlborough of Blenheim – shaped his incredible character and life.

In a time when races were strictly divided by society, his American grandmother Clarissa is believed to have had Iroquois Indian blood. Meanwhile, the 1st Duke of Marlborough, John, fought heroically on the battlefield.

The National Trust, which runs the house, said this is a fascinating and compelling blend of British tradition and New World adventure, energy and enterprise. The transatlantic genetic inheritance created perhaps the greatest British wartime leader.

The display takes visitors behind the scenes of Churchill's childhood to reveal his touching relationship with his beloved nanny 'Woomany' as well as the complex relationships with his mother and father, Lord and Lady Randolph.

A wide range of objects have been gathered from around the world, half of which have never been displayed before.



GREAT ANCESTRY: Randolph Churchill with a pair of duelling pistols belonging to John, 1st Duke of Marlborough, and the builder of Blenheim Palace

The major highlights to look out for are the pair of duelling pistols and Garter Star belonging to Churchill's 17th century ancestor John, 1st Duke of Marlborough, the builder of Blenheim Palace.

Then there is the charcoal drawing of Churchill's glamorous Brooklyn-born mother Jennie Jerome by society artist John Singer Sargent, and diamond, ruby and sapphire rings given by Churchill's father to his mother, items which have been reunited especially for this exhibition.

Significant family portraits and even locks of his hair as a child are available to view.

Randolph Churchill, Winston's great-grandson, said: "I am delighted to have been able to loan a number of family objects for display at Chartwell this winter.

"This exhibition shines a light on Winston's parents and his forefathers, who were so important in giving him the backbone he had in the dark days of 1940.

"Indeed he later wrote of that time: 'I felt as if I were walking with destiny, and that all my past life had been but a preparation for this hour and for this trial'."

Historian Professor Sir David Cannadine, added: "It is a timely innovation at Chartwell to begin holding and hosting exhibitions which help us to understand more fully the extraordinary range and richness of Churchill's life.

"His Anglo-American ancestry was very important to him personally, and became very important to him politically. In the Blood helps us understand how and why this was so."

Lady Churchill handed Chartwell, in Westerham, to the National Trust in 1965.

Curator of In the Blood, Alice Martin, said: "I am personally very excited to see the fantastic oil paintings of Sir Winston's grandparents and the beautiful engagement rings back together for perhaps the first time in more than 100 years."

In the Blood is open from 11am to 4pm everyday until the end of February. Tickets are priced at £6.50 for adults.

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OPINION

There are better alternatives

Rehman Chishti considers the implication of a Thames Estuary airport and how it would irrevocably alter the area

THERE are many economic and environmental reasons why the Thames Estuary is not a suitable location for a new hub airport.

These reasons – from the serious threat of bird strikes to the SS Richard Montgomery, packed full of explosives – have been well-debated.

Given this, it is no surprise that the idea has not found favour with the public, the major airlines or MPs. Only recently a survey by Ipsos MORI disclosed that only 16 per cent of MPs support the idea.

But let us consider for a moment, what would be the impact of such an airport on Kent and Medway?

One of the proposals is for a four runway airport, operating 24-hours-a-day and handling up to 150 million passengers a year. Such a vast airport, which would be twice as large as Heathrow, would require significant infrastructure and transport links to support it.

It is suggested this could be achieved by linking the airport to the existing high speed rail service. Whilst there may currently be spare capacity on the train line – Eurostar only uses 40 per cent of it – there is interest from several European train operators in running new passenger and freight services in the next few years.

In short, new train lines would have to be built, carving up our communities and the countryside. It is more than likely we would also witness a repeat of the challenges seen over the High Speed Two route as such lines would pass through parts of Kent and Essex.

And it would require major road access. To avoid congestion the M2 would have to be upgraded or new motorways built to handle demand.

Airports also rely heavily on supporting services and industries and Kent could only accommodate them through the building of vast new industrial estates.

An airport of this proportion would require at least 70,000 employees, which is even more than those who are unemployed in Kent and Medway. It would result in an influx of new arrivals and where would all these people live?

Clearly it would require new homes, schools and hospitals, piling pressure on existing services. To put the scale of this into some context, Medway's annual housing target is 815 dwellings per year up to 2028, far less than the thousands of homes that would be required to support a new airport.

Such developments could threaten our existing green areas such as Capstone Valley and the North Downs Way, located in a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



New jobs would be decades away and not the jobs we need to create now

On top of this is the environmental impact on those living in the areas surrounding the airport who will see increased noise, light and air pollution.

Supporters of the scheme say it is worth sacrificing Kent and Medway for the thousands of jobs it would create. But such jobs would be decades away and not the jobs we need to create now and that are being created through our regeneration schemes.

If an airport in the Thames Estuary was allowed to go ahead it would irrevocably alter Kent and Medway.

I do not believe this is the solution to our aviation needs. There are much better alternatives which will be considered as part of the Government's review.

■ Rehman Chishti is the Conservative MP for Gillingham and Rainham.

KOS COMMENT

New archbishop has a challenge on his hands

IS Kent losing faith? Or is it that when a person dies, loved ones would prefer the service to be a celebration of their life, rather than a religious ceremony?

Some will argue that in death, it's only right that religion should play a part, believing them to be moving on to some sort of afterlife.

But gone are the days of the family ritual of the Sunday church visit. While families and friends still get together, it's more likely for a roast dinner than to unite in quiet reflection at church.

One could argue that as long as families get together on Sundays, that sense of community is still alive. Either way, the fact is church is now less popular and the new archbishop has a job to try and get congregations back.

Think before judging

IT would be easy for some to question the grieving mother who claims her dead son writes to her every day.

But whether or not you believe, most will understand the need to find peace in the wake of such a trauma and facing every parent's worst nightmare.

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Eastwell Manor, Ashford by Alan Blackburn

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Thank you for your support

PLEASE will you pass on my heartfelt thanks to the people of Kent for electing me as their first Police and Crime Commissioner.

I am humbled by the scale of the vote and the confidence people have shown in me. They can be assured I am devoted to Kent and dedicated to serve the whole community.

In office I will stand by all the issues I have been campaigning on over the last few months, such as keeping party politics out of policing, cutting crime, enhancing visible community policing (Kent's number one priority) and fighting any further Government cuts.

As so many recent events have shown, trust in public life is everything. I will always put Kent's needs and views first.

I promise that you will have the most visible, accessible and responsive police commissioner in the land.

Ann Barnes, Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner

Election raised police profile

MAY I take this opportunity to thank the 16,000 (almost) people in Kent who voted for me in the police commissioner elections last week. Whatever else happened, the elections did at least cause a good number of people to think more about policing and the priorities for the years ahead.

I am sure the electorate chose a good candidate, and I wish Ann Barnes the very best in her new post.

Piers Wauchope, UKIP

Showing up party politics

IT is with considerable relief that the people of Kent voted for independent Ann Barnes to be the new PCC.

As her campaign communications manager I saw how her message – that our police should be free of political interference – resonated with all shades of voter whoever they traditionally supported at previous elections.

During this campaign, Ann was subjected to so many attacks and aspersions about when she was the chair of the Kent Police Authority and her independent candidature.

It became lamentable that certain candidates would stoop to such gutter tactics. They focused on attacking Ann instead of talking about how they would manage the future of our police itself.

Ann rose above these attacks and stuck to her guns to achieve a landslide victory with 65 per cent of the vote.

She was up against the might of the Conservative Party's monopoly in Kent, with 17 MPs to call upon and huge numbers of foot soldiers.

Ann won because of her principled message and the dedication of a small, group of brilliant and loyal volunteers, including the wisdom of the Gurkha campaigner, Peter Carroll, who delivered a volte-face in how the police should be managed.

I can truthfully say that with the total distrust of the main party politicians as a key factor for their demise, the campaign tactics of a few have contributed further to the climate of cynicism around "party first" politicians. The Maidstone and Weald MP is a case in point. All over the voter when campaigning, but when in power only support their party and careers.

Ann Barnes will put people of Kent first. Watch this space.

Howard Cox, Cranbrook

Incredulous at Westminster

THE numbnuts in Westminster continue to live in denial. Now they're having a review as to why the turnout was so low for the PCC elections.

They really expected us to rush down to vote in a blind auction. The equivalent of being blindfolded and asked to throw a dart at a wall with some unknown names on it. Are they for real? Should they really be running a country? They haven't a clue.

Phil Granger, West Malling

We, the public, have spoken

A GOOD government listens to the voice of the people. Nationally, on November 15, the people spoke very clearly.

The majority did not agree that the post of PCC should be a political one. Therefore, they either stayed at home, voted for the independents or made it clear on their ballot papers.

Remarks made on spoiled ballot papers, as seen on TV, were short and concise. These are the opinion of the public and should be published.

The people, by their actions, have spoken with eloquence. They have the right to be heard.

Mrs J Moore, Rusthall

The cameras save lives

I AM shocked when I read letters criticising the use of speed cameras. It was reported earlier this year that since speed cameras were introduced here, in 1992, the average number of people killed on our roads has more than halved from 11 each day to five.

Of course, speed cameras may not have been responsible for all this, but individual trials show that they work. In one west London trial at 21 sites in 1997, the death rate fell two thirds in three years.

Even if only half of the reduced death rate is due to speed cameras, that is still three people's lives saved daily.

Of course, it is frustrating when one is caught by a speed camera, but the solution is simple. Obey the speed limit.

Richard Mountford, Hildenborough

Disabled being made to pay

PEOPLE across the UK are taking action against cuts to disability benefits as part of the Hardest Hit Campaign.

With these cuts coming over the next few years, it will make travelling to hospitals worse due to extra parking fees or finding the money for taxis. Living with my disabled child I wonder where it will end.

I am urging readers to speak out because there are huge human costs to the Government targeting disabled people – losing support could lead to isolation and declining health. In addition, the Government wastes millions in the cost of appeals from flawed assessments, and risks long term costs because cuts to benefits like Disability Living Allowance will make it harder to cope.

The timing is critical as the Government is making decisions about benefits now, announcing its intention to cut £10 billion from welfare. Already £9bn has been cut from disability benefits and services, and the Government must rule out targeting disabled people for further 'savings' in the 2013 Budget.

Rachel Smith, Canterbury

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If you have a business story or any news you think we should be covering in this section, reporter **Nick Ames** would like to hear from you.
You can phone him on **01303 817181**, or alternatively email **nick.ames@archant.co.uk**.

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Your business is our business

On the road to find the next generation of entrepreneurs

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE Grow For It campaign, which is promoting business investment and entrepreneurship in east Kent, took to the streets with a bus tour this month.

To celebrate Global Entrepreneurship Week, business experts were on hand to advise those wishing to set up or expand their commercial activities in how they can apply for funding.

The tour, aimed mostly at young people, was designed to raise awareness of the new opportunities arising as a result of a cash injection into the area from the Government's Regional Growth Fund.

A total of £35 million has been made available with the intention of boosting the economy through employment opportunities.

Representatives from the Kent County Council-administered body Expansion East Kent were on board the bus, which visited Canterbury, Folkestone and Broadstairs advising on access to the funding for interest-free business loans.

Mentors were also available to advise on growth and start up, while businessmen and women also gave advice to young people.

Martyn Riley, of KCC, was one of those who met some of the next generation of Kent's business community.

"We have not had an investment in business on this scale before and it is there for people to take advantage of," he said. "In the past, Kent has been sadly neglected in investment because it did not rate high enough on the deprivation criteria, but that has changed in the last few years as Government has become more aware of the situation in the county.

"What Kent can offer businesses looking to come here is a skilled workforce with a wide range of abilities.

"I have been impressed with the young people I have spoken to. I do not feel that at their age I was thinking about the possibility of becoming an entrepreneur. They also show a great amount of enthusiasm."

The fund is aimed principally at sustainable businesses that create new jobs, although money can be made available to safeguard existing employment positions and the criteria for a successful application is strict.

Many of the young people who visited the touring bus were encouraged in their aims to set up in business.

Amie Rawlin, 16, from St Mary's Bay, visited the bus when it parked up at K College in Folkestone and spoke to the mentoring team.

"It was very useful to talk to experts," she said. "I wasn't actually aware that there was any investment in business in Kent and did not know it was possible to apply for a loan.

"My ambition is to set up and run my own nursery – that now seems more likely than when I stepped on the bus a few minutes ago."



IMPRESSED: KCC's Martyn Riley says the young people he has spoken to during the bus tour have shown plenty of enthusiasm

The Barron of the chamber

CAROLE Barron, director of innovation and enterprise at the University of Kent, has been appointed the new chair of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce.

After two years as vice-chair, she takes over the position from Henry Nydam, and will now serve until 2014 with Tim Allen of M J Allen as vice-chair.

Barron, a director of the chamber since 2008, said: "I am delighted to have the opportunity to chair the board of directors of one of the most proactive accredited chambers in the South East.

"It is an exciting time. With the growth into the Thames Gateway, the chamber offers a large geographical network of support to our members, led by our chief executive, Jo James."

James said: "The chamber welcomes Carole as chair, with many thanks for all her help thus far. We very much look forward to a close and productive relationship.

"We also welcome three new directors who were elected at the AGM.

"Our board of directors is a great strength to the chamber and we thank all of them for their contribution."



NEW CHAIR: Carole Barron

Optimism maintained as moderate growth continues in private sector

BUSINESS activity has risen for the third month running, and while growth was moderate it still showed the sharpest increase in seven months, according to the latest figures.

Data from Lloyds TSB signalled that the South East's private-sector economy remained in growth territory but failed to accelerate notably from September's weak pace.

New business expansion was moderate, albeit the fastest since March, while employment registered a fractional increase following the previous month's job-shedding.

Cost pressures remained stronger than the long-run survey average, leading to a slight increase in prices charged. Private-sector output in the South East increased for the third month running in October.

That compared favourably with a marginal decline across the UK as a whole, although the rate of expansion in the latest period was muted as the Business Activity Index posted 51.0, from 50.3 in September.

Although services activity increased at a solid rate, this was partly offset by another drop in manufacturing production. Total activity growth was supported by a further increase in new business at the start of Q4.

New workloads have risen for four months, and the latest increase was the strongest since March. However, the rate of expansion was weaker than the long-run survey average and new orders at goods-producers continued to decline.

The latest survey data signalled a marginal increase in private-sector employment in the South East.

Average prices rose sharply in October, with the rate of inflation edging up to a 13-month high. A variety of sources was identifuied, including food, fuel, energy, labour and paper.

Phil Beales, area director for Lloyds TSB Commercial in Kent, said: "Total private-sector output rose only modestly, weighed down by a fall in manufacturing production.

"However, there is reason to be optimistic, as employment stabilised and new business increased at the fastest rate since March.

"The labour market should also be supported in the coming months by the solid increase in service-sector activity in October."

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Drop in jobless numbers slows but federation staying positive

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE recent sharp decline in the number of people in Kent out of work has halted – bringing disappointment to business leaders hoping for a repeat of last month's encouraging news on the jobless front.

The number claiming Jobseekers' Allowance in October fell by just three people in Kent and Medway to 35,034 – a month after the figure fell by 177.

A little over half the boroughs in the county saw a small drop in the number of people out of work, according to figures from the Office of National Statistics.

However, increases in Maidstone – up 75 to 2,481 – and Dover – up 70 to 2,547 – meant the overall unemployment picture for the county stayed almost the same. Gravesham's total went up by 25 to 2,569, while Ashford's increased by 13 to 1,962. Medway also saw a rise of 10 people out of work from 6,938 to 6,948, as did Dartford – up nine to 1,751.

The biggest fall came in Canterbury, which dropped 78 to a total of 2,303.

The Federation of Small Businesses said it was disappointed that the decline in unemployment had stalled but members remained positive about long-term economic prospects.

Roger House, FSB chairman for Kent and Medway, said: "It is good news that national unemployment continues to fall and unfortunate that we have not seen the same level of decline in Kent and Medway.

"These are the last figures before the Chancellor delivers his Autumn Statement and he must help to embed this growth by bringing forward policies which help Kent's small firms to grow.

"However, the stats show long-term unemployment continues to rise, especially for women and 16- to 17-year-olds. We know small firms in Kent and Medway are key to taking on people who have been out of work for 12 months or more.

"Recent news that only 16,000 companies have taken up the regional National Insurance Contributions holiday must provide the signal that it needs to be extended to Kent companies. Not only would extending the scheme to UK-wide micro businesses add £1.3 billion to GDP, but it would create additional jobs and job opportunities."

"Our Autumn 2012 FSB Small Business Barometer showed small businesses in Kent and Medway are optimistic, with 44 per cent forecasting improved prospects in 2013. We hope this is a temporary break on economic growth."



ON THE SEARCH: The number of people in the county who are claiming Jobseekers' Allowance has continued to fall but not at the high rate recorded last month, with some areas reporting an increase

Communication failings put small firms at risk

IN the first survey of its kind, the Federation of Small Businesses has uncovered a serious lack of communication between the Government and companies.

A quarter of small firms do not know there are major changes to the way they will have to report their payroll coming into force in about six months' time, according to the study.

A snap poll of 1,700 small firms found that only 16 per cent of respondents were fully aware of the Real Time Information (RTI) programme – a new flagship way of reporting payroll – and a quarter had never heard of it, despite it being critical to the success of Universal Credit.

RTI is a new programme designed by HMRC to gather regular information about employees. It aims to simplify reporting new starters and leavers as well as making the payroll process simpler and less burdensome.

It will also support the payment of Universal Credits to those who receive them.

Two-thirds of respondents to the FSB's survey are not confident that RTI will achieve these aims.

With less than six months to go until businesses have to comply with the new rules, more than 60 per cent of firms have not had any communication from HMRC about the changes.

Businesses think that learning new processes to deal with the changes as well as dealing with potential enquiries and inspections from HMRC will pose a challenge.

Roger House, FSB chairman for Kent and Medway, said: "With only six months until RTI is due to be implemented, the FSB has real concerns not enough businesses are aware that is just around the corner. This system is linked to the Government's flagship Universal Credit scheme and we're concerned it could flop if Government does not step up its game in communicating the changes.

"There are a number of steps that a business must complete before they can provide Real Time Information to HMRC, so it is critical that those affected know about it.

"Of the very small number of firms that are aware of the change, 30 per cent have had to buy new software for their business. HMRC needs to act now so that all small firms can prepare their business as they only have six months in which to do it.

"Without adequate communication and education from Government, small firms won't be able to prepare."

Forty-somethings are giving birth to a new generation of businesses

BUSINESS life in Kent begins at 40, according to a new survey.

The study found that the majority (78 per cent) of small businesses were set up by people over that age.

The report, independently commissioned by Viking – supplier of office supplies to small and medium-sized enterprises – also revealed that the outlook for the region was promising.

More than half (54 per cent) of businesses are expecting to maintain their current position over the next 12 months and a further 15 per cent are set to grow over the same period.

"Against the backdrop of the current economic circumstances, it is particularly pleasing to see that the majority of businesses in Kent are expecting to at least hold their ground over the next year," said John O'Keeffe, commercial director at Viking. "The region does also appear to be full of opportunity, with a considerable number of 40-somethings bringing their working experience to the small-business market."

Also in the report, 96 per cent of people in the region stated that they believed that on average small-business workers did more than the standard eight-hour day.

INTERNATIONAL LINKS

Event highlights Vietnam as the next big thing

KENT hosted a high-level trade delegation from Vietnam that met business representatives in an effort to build trade links.

Organised by Kent County Council and Locate in Kent, the county's investment promotion agency, with the assistance of UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), the UK-Vietnam Networking Event was designed to highlight trade, investment and business opportunities between the two countries.

The Vietnamese delegation was led by Ho Thi Kim Thoa, vice-minister of commerce and industry, and included Vu Quang Minh, ambassador to the UK. They were joined by representatives of the Departments for Europe, Market Regulation, and International Co-operation, as well as a number of Vietnamese businesses.

The event was held at Leeds Castle because of Locate in Kent deputy chairman Warwick Morris's links with Vietnam.

A former career diplomat, he was Britain's ambassador there from 2000 to 2003 and is an adviser on Vietnam to Lloyd's insurance market.



SPEAKER: Ho Thi Kim Thoa, the Vietnamese vice-minister of commerce and industry

The morning was opened by Alex King, deputy leader of Kent County Council, before vice-minister Thoa delivered the keynote address.

Delegates also heard from Piers Craven, UKTI deputy director for trade and investment in Vietnam, on why the country offered such exciting prospects for UK companies looking to trade there.

The event included presentations from Vietnam's Foreign Investment Agency on the country's economic and investment policies and from Jack Howell, chief executive officer of Prudential in the country.

"I know from my three years spent in Vietnam and my continued work on UK-Vietnam relations, just how many excellent and varied opportunities there are for UK companies to do business and build important links with their counterparts there," said Morris after the event.

"The UK-Vietnam relationship is developing fast. Two-way trade and investment is increasing rapidly and I hope the event helped businesses from both countries build a better understanding of the other's market, and that links between the two sides will grow as a result."

King said: "That this important event aimed at building trade between the two countries was held in Kent speaks volumes for the county's vision and foresight in developing international relations and encouraging investment.

"While the focus of the event was on trade between both countries, the links and relationships established on the day will doubtless be rewarded in the future by Vietnamese investment here in Kent."

Training, courses and careers

Women's wages under spotlight on WEA course

ADULT education organisation the WEA is launching a seven-week course looking at examining the wages of women during the 19th and 20th century.

The Workers' Educational Association's Canterbury branch will see Working Kent Women 1840 to 1940 begin in January.

It will be held at the Friend's Meeting House in The Friars.

The course, which will be taught by Alyss Dye, will look at the history of women's waged work during the 19th and 20th centuries and explore the typical jobs Kentish women would have had during this time; from domestic services including housekeeping and child rearing to hop-picking and from pea-picking to paper-making.

The course will run on Wednesday afternoons from January 16, between 2pm to 4pm.

It costs £55.30. There are a number of free spaces if students receive income-related benefit.

No previous knowledge or qualifications are required to join the course.

The WEA is the UK's largest voluntary provider of adult education with almost 65,000 students nationwide attending its courses between 2010-11.

Many of its courses are organised by volunteer-led branches - such as that in Canterbury.

To find out more on the Working Kent Women course, contact Gill Hayes on 01227 786603.

For details on how to enrol or other courses currently offered by the organisation, see the website www.wea.org.uk.

Media course makes the news as graduates land leading jobs

HOT off the press is news that journalism graduates from the University of Kent continue to be among the most sought after recruits by leading media outlets and organisations.

The university said recent graduates from the centre of journalism's undergraduate BA in journalism and the news industry and postgraduate multimedia journalism MA, have done well.

They have joined organisations like the Sun, the Huffington Post, ITV Meridian, the Daily Mail, BBC Radio, Sky Italia, and even this paper.

The courses are accredited by the National Council for the Training of Journalists and is also the only UK academic programme of its type to offer a guaranteed placement for students during their studies.

Based at the university's Medway campus, the centre's facilities include two state-of-the-art multimedia newsrooms and dedicated radio and television studios.

Laura Garcia Rodriguez, who graduated in 2012, is now working for ITV Meridian and attributes her achievements to the experience and passion of the teaching staff.

She said: "I believe the success that my colleagues and I have had after completing an MA in multimedia journalism at the University of Kent is due entirely to the staff and their full commitment to their students. The curriculum is very well thought out and outlines a series of skills and knowledge that anyone wanting to break into journalism should have.

"But it is the professor's passion and dedication that drives the message home.

"They were straight and honest about the industry we were getting into.

"This, I believe, is the best thing I learnt from them."

And centre head Professor Tim Luckhurst, added: "We select excellent students who desperately want to be journalists and who have proved to us that they have the aptitude to make it in this uniquely competitive profession.

"They learn from top professionals in an environment that replicates as closely as possible the atmosphere of a working newsroom.

"Our facilities are superb and everyone in the Centre for Journalism is committed to doing all that we can to ensure our students realise their ambitions. I am intensely proud that so many of them succeed."

The graduates are entering the media industry at a challenging time, as it looks to capitalise on the growth of the internet and the ability to reach out to a wider audience.

Be sure to keep up-to-date with all the latest news from around Kent by logging-on to our website - www.kentnews.co.uk.

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817000.



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College hits the right note as it unveils modern music room

FINDING the right place to fine tune musical skills can be tough and expensive, but education bosses at MidKent College have hit the right note.

Musical students with an eye on the charts of the future are able to use the new state-of-the-art live room.

It is a soundproof facility that gives talented music students the chance to hone their craft without disturbing the neighbours at home.

And it's likely to be one of the busiest places on the Medway campus.

They can practice in private while their music technology counterparts use the latest high-tech equipment to ensure the quality of the performances shine through.

Sevenoaks musician and former MidKent College lecturer Dan Clews – who performed alongside Tim Minchin as part of the Children in Need show – officially opened the live room.

He said: "The UK is the second largest music exporter in the world behind America, and it's very important we continue to invest in the future of the industry.

"I came across some very talented musicians during my time at the college and it's great they now have a room of exceptional quality to practice that talent in."

Louise Molton, head of the creative and visual arts faculty at MidKent College's Medway campus, said: "This room gives the musicians their own self-contained area to perform in, and will really help raise their performance levels. It really is a fantastic new facility."

Boots shoot a Facebook hit



SNAP: Picture perfect boots

THE Dr Martens brand has been iconic for generations, so it was a special privilege for a group of photography students to capture its very essence.

The fashion snappers at the University for the Creative Arts at Rochester jumped at the chance to show off their skills with the boots - as illustrated in the image on the right.

The first year fashion promotion students were entrusted with the company's autumn winter collection and given the brief to find the most original, outrageous or unique ways to wear a British classic that is famed for its individuality.

The very best were then uploaded for the world to see via the Dr Martens Facebook page.

UCA fashion promotion lecturer, Johannes Reponen, said: "This was a fantastic opportunity for our first year students to test their skills in styling and teamwork in a live industry project with a major British brand."

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spencer private hospital

The Spencer Private Hospital is an independently owned and managed 4 bed unit situated within the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford.
We currently have the following vacancies:

Ward Manager Ashford
30-37.5 hours per week

Closing date for applications - 16th December 2012

Qualifications
Registered Nurse 1st Level
Minimum 5 years post registration
Experience at Ward Sister level
Evidence of continual professional development
Teaching and Assessing Course or equivalent
Degree desirable

To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit please contact

Mary Guarnieri - Matron/CSM on 01843 234252 or Vicky Smith (Clinical Effectiveness Co-ordinator) on 01843 234555 ext 62207

For job description and application form please contact:
Mandy Oliver
East Kent Medical Services Ltd
Atina House
Bench Street
Dover
Kent CT16 1JH

Telephone: **01304 245946**

E-mail: **mandy.oliver@thespencerwing.com**

The Spencer Private Hospital is an equal opportunity employer. These positions are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check.



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Please send CV supported by a cover letter to
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avante community support

Would you like to make a positive difference caring for people in your community?

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Experience is preferable but not essential as full training will be given.

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Avante Community Support is a not for profit charitable organisation providing care and support for people, so they can remain living independently in their own home environment.

For further details please contact Recruitment and Training Officer Amanda Andrews on 01795 597454

Registered office: The Delany House, 1 Jubilee Way, Faversham, Kent ME13 8GD

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HMT Care

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A competitive salary, promotion prospects, accredited specialist training, together with QCF opportunities, is our commitment to you.

Previous experience and qualifications are an advantage, but are not essential.

Starting salary £6.64 - £7.30

Part-time and Full-time hours are available.

To request an application form and information please call Rachel or Katie on 01227 373586 weekdays between 10am and 4pm.

spencer private hospital

The Spencer Private Hospital is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEQM Hospital site. We also have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

Physiotherapy Manager
Full Time
To manage our Physiotherapy Department and maintain clinical skills with our in-patient and out-patient activity, primarily at Margate but across both sites. Six or more years post graduate experience and previous management experience preferred

Staff Nurses - Ward and Outpatients (Margate), Ward (Ashford)
Full and part-time positions
Qualifications
Registered Nurse 1st Level
Evidence of continual professional development

To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit please contact
Mary Guarnieri (Matron) 01843 234252 or Vicky Smith (Clinical Effectiveness Co-ordinator) 01843 234555 ext 63453

For job description and application form please contact:
Mandy Oliver
East Kent Medical Services Ltd
Atina House
Bench Street
Dover
Kent CT16 1JH

Telephone: **01304 245946**

E-mail: **mandy.oliver@thespencerwing.com**

The Spencer Wing is an equal opportunity employer. This position is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check

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Media experience is not essential as full training will be given, however good numeracy, literacy and computer skills are required.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

Public Notice
Kent County Council is asking for views on school admissions

In line with the School Admissions Code, Kent County Council is formally consulting admissions authorities, diocesan boards, parent groups and parent/guardians of children aged between 2 and 16 who live in Kent.

They are being asked about the proposed admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools in Kent for the 2014/15 school year.

The Local Authority consultation runs from 15 November 2012 and the closing date will be 15 January 2013.

The above groups are invited to view the admissions arrangements at:

www.kent.gov.uk/schooladmissions

A link to an online response form is also available on the KCC website.

If you do not have access to the internet you may request a printed copy of the proposed arrangements and a response form from:

Scott Bagshaw
Head of Fair Access
Rm 2.24 Sessions House
County Hall, Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Every academy, foundation and voluntary aided school is also required to consult the above groups on their proposed admission arrangements if they are making amendments. Where provided, the admissions policies for these schools will also be posted on the KCC website at the above link. They will also be available from the school. Any responses to the consultation on admission arrangements for academy, foundation or voluntary aided schools should be sent to the Chair of Governors for the relevant school, by their closing date, which must be no later than 1 March 2013.

If you require any further information on the consultation process please telephone Craig Chapman - Scheme Co-ordination Manager - on 01622 696789

kent.gov.uk Kent County Council

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Swale Borough Council

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 10 DECEMBER 2012

SW/12/0888 & SW/12/0894:
Partial demolition of existing listed dwelling and extension to create new 4 bedroom dwelling. Total demolition of existing outbuildings and their replacement - Pett Dane Cottage, EASTLING; **REASON 2**

SW/12/1294 & SW/12/1295:
Planning Permission & Conservation Area Consent for the demolition of part of the existing wall and the erection of a new dwelling - Land to the R/o 1 & 1A Court Street, 7 & 7A Market Place, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1319:
Listed Building Consent for replacement of existing staircase & lobby - 7a Market Place, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1341:
Rear extension and internal alterations - 38 Briton Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/12/1350:
Demolition of existing single storey kitchen and garage and construction of two storey extension together with internal alterations - 56 Abbey Street, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/12/1379:
Install steel staircase at the rear of the property - 3 Railway Terrace, QUEENBOROUGH; **REASON 1**

SW/12/1392:
Outline application for the erection of a 60 bed care home with amenity space, car and cycle parking, associated development, landscaping and access - Land at Coleshall Farm, Sheppey Way, IWADE; **REASON 3**

SW/12/1395:
Replacement garage - New House Farm Cottage, New House Lane, SHELDWICH; **REASON 2**

SW/12/1407:
Demolition of existing row of six lock up garages. Construction of single dwelling with two car parking spaces and a patio garden - R/o 118 Ospringe Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/12/1420 & SW/12/1433:
Conversion of redundant agricultural outbuilding (cow-House) to form single bedroom annexe whose use is ancillary to the enjoyment of the main house - Wilgate Green Farm, Wilgate Green Road, THROWLEY; **REASON 2**

SW/12/1425:
Outline planning permission for 14 dwellings and detailed access approval - Land off Ridham Avenue, Kemsley, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 3**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

To advertise in this section
01303 817056

Folkestone

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y12/0991/SH+ - 13 North Road Hythe Kent CT21 5DS - Erection of a detached garage following removal of existing and alterations to rear staircase.

Y12/0970/SH - Bybrook House The Undercliff Sandgate Folkestone Kent - 10% crown thin of a Willow tree and felling of a Cypress tree, both subject of Tree Preservation Order No. 3 of 1973.

Y12/1014/SH - Ingles Court 2 Ingles Road Folkestone Kent CT20 2SN - Erection of 25 later living apartments, communal facilities and car parking following demolition of existing buildings.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

\# - The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

\+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

PUBLIC NOTICE
Gambling Act 2005
3 yr Review of Gambling Policy
Consultation dates
26th November 2012 - 25th January 2013
Copies of the policy are available by calling 01795 417364 or by e-mail licensing@swale.gov.uk
Comments should be made by 25th January in writing to:
The Licensing Officer
Swale Borough Council
Swale House
East Street
Sittingbourne
Kent, ME10 3HT

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//12/01614/LB: 85 St Dunstans Street, Canterbury, CT2 8AD Installation of trough light above fascia. **Applicant: Mr Wen** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/01965/FUL: Ground Floor Flat, 12 Douglas Road, Herne Bay, CT6 6AE Addition of fencing and bin store area to front of site. **Applicant: Mrs Crouch** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02007/ADV: 12 Horsebridge Road, Whitstable, CT5 1AF Internally illuminated fascia and hanging signs, internally illuminated freestanding menu, non-illuminated sign written logo, two parasols and three non-illuminated windbreakers. **Applicant: Gondola Group** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02008/FUL: 9 Willow Way, Chestfield, CT5 3JJ Proposed ground floor extension to kitchen area and proposed loft conversion comprising partial raised roof extension and a dormer to rear elevation. Also including proposed pitched roof over garage. **Applicant: Mr Brown** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02012/FUL: St Cosmus and St Damians Church, Tyler Hill Road, Blean Construction of a paved path in Blean churchyard. **Applicant: Rev Laird** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/02014/TAM: Land to front of 92 and 96 Canterbury Road, Herne Bay, CT6 5SA Installation of telecommunications equipment cabinet. **Applicant: Openreach** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02018/FUL: 44 High Street, Littlebourne, CT3 1ST Proposed conservatory. **Applicant: Mr Hart** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/02019/ADV: 1-2 Parade, Canterbury, CT1 2JL Three fascia panels with five non-illuminated logos; one non-illuminated projecting sign to existing bracket; one non-illuminated wall-mounted name plate. **Applicant: Lloyds Banking Group** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//12/02023/FUL: 4 Wave Crest, Whitstable, CT5 1EH Widening of first-floor balcony window and installation of balcony doors. **Applicant: Mr Julian Blades** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02025/FUL: 17 Abbots Place, Canterbury, CT1 2AH Insertion of dormer window to rear, rooflights to front and rear and alterations to windows. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Robert Jones** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02033/FUL: Mount Pleasant, Hardres Court Road, Lower Hardres, CT4 5NR Insertion of window to first floor of side (north west) elevation. **Applicant: Mrs A Pack** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/02034/LB: Mount Pleasant, Hardres Court Road, Lower Hardres, CT4 5NR Insertion of window to first floor of side (north west) elevation. **Applicant: Mrs A Pack** Reason: Work to a listed building.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.management@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 17 December 2012.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 23 November 2012

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817056

Canterbury City Council

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Canterbury City Council will be held at The Guildhall, Westgate, Canterbury at 7pm on Thursday 29 November 2012.

Colin Carmichael
Chief Executive
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
Canterbury CT1 1YW

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/12/1551/N - LAND AT, WEEK STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT - change of use of land for the siting of a street trading stall. **Reason: 2**

MA/12/1622/N - LEWSOME FARM HOUSE, BOUGHTON ROAD, SANDWAY, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2BE - Installation of a new doorway and replacement window to existing outbuilding. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1623/N - LEWSOME FARM HOUSE, BOUGHTON ROAD, SANDWAY, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2BE - An application for listed building consent for the installation of a new doorway and replacement window to existing outbuilding plus internal alterations. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/1671/N - 65, HIGH STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1SR - Retrospective application to Replace an existing Telephone Kiosk with a new kiosk combining an ATM and a Payphone. **Reason: 1 2**

MA/12/1825/N - MARKET STALL, EARL STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1PP - Change of use of land for the stationing of a street barrow. **Reason: 1 2**

MA/12/1877/S - MARSHALLS PLACE, AMBER LANE, CHART SUTTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3SE - Single-storey side extension with room in the roof. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1894/S - WOLSEY BARN, CLAYGATE ROAD, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6BD - An application for listed building consent for the works to facilitate the conversion of a barn to residential use. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/1902/N - 2, MONCRIF CLOSE, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4QG - Erection of first floor side extension to provide additional first floor level living accommodation and to facilitate loft conversion including insertion of rooflights. **Reason: 2**

MA/12/1928/S - ELMSCROFT HOUSE, CHARLTON LANE, WEST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0NY - Replacement of asbestos roof to existing garage with new roofing system with two new stainless steel flues to serve new biomass boilers and associated works. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1949/S - KENT COTTAGE AND CHANCE HOLDING, GRIGG LANE, HEADCORN, KENT, TN27 9TD - Outline planning application for demolition of buildings at Kent Cottage and Chance Holding to enable the construction of residential development (for a maximum of 29 dwellings inclusive of 8 affordable dwellings) inclusive of retained woodland as open amenity land, enhanced landscaping including new pond, electricity sub station, foul drainage pumping station with access road off Grigg Lane;. **Reason: 6 7**

MA/12/1956/S - PRIDE OF KENT, HIGH STREET, STAPLEHURST, KENT, TN12 0AH - Conservation Area Consent application for the demolition of existing rear extensions. **Reason: 4**

Reasons for advertisement key:

1 -Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 -Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 -Application is for Listed Building Consent.
4 -Application is for Conservation Area Consent.
6 -Application is Major Development.
7 -Application affects a Public Right of Way.

MAIDSTONE Borough Council

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **9th December 2012** quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 25th November 2012.

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/03126/HOUSE **St Pauls School House Langton Road, Broadwater**
- Dormer window to front/east elevation (LB) (CA)

12/03101/FUL **Pigwidgeon & Pye Ltd 71 - 75 Mount Pleasant Road, Culverden**
- Installation of new HVAC and plant equipment (LB) (CA)

12/02887/LBC **4 Morebreddis Cottages Chequers Road, Goudhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Replacement external door (LB)

12/02947/FUL **Bedgebury Park Equestrian Centre Bedgebury Road, Goudhurst**
- Erection of five low impact Mongolian yurts (temporary structures) for rural tourist accommodation, recreational activities and education (LB)

12/03149/LBC **3 Bedford Terrace Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Listed Building Consent: Satellite dish to rear elevation (works already completed) (LB)

12/03073/FUL **13 High Street Pembury, Pembury**
- Second floor office (A2 use) extension (LB) (CA)

12/03070/HOUSE **40 St James Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, St James**
- Single storey side extension and addition of window to rear lower ground floor (CA

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 24 November 2012

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Canterbury City Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2013

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Canterbury City Council proposes to make the above Order under Sections 32 and 35 of and Parts III and IV of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, with the consent of the Kent County Council under Section 39(3) of the said Act of 1984.

PART A

(i) The Order relates to the following car parks:
Albin's, Beach Street, Bisson's, Black Griffin Lane, Castle Row, Castle Street, Chapel Street, Council Offices (Staff and Visitors), Cow Lane, Essex Street, Faversham Road Seasalter, Fountain Street, Franklyn House, Sturry, Gladstone Road, Gorrell Tank, Hampton Pier, Hawks Lane, Holman's Meadow, Keam's Yard, Kingsmead, Kingsmead Leisure Centre, King's Road, Longport, Market Street, Marlowe Theatre, Maynard Road, Memorial Park Herne Bay, Middle Wall, Millers Field, Neptune, New Dover Road Park and Ride, New Street, Northgate, North Lane, Notley Street, Orange Street, Oyster, Pound Lane, Queningate, Reculver Drive, Reculver Towers, Regent Street, Riverside Children's Centre, Rosemary Lane, Rye's, Salt Marsh Lane, St John's Lane, St Peter's Grove, St Radigund's, School Lane, Shaftesbury Road (North and South), Southern Way, Station Road West, Sturry Road Park and Ride, Swalecliffe Avenue, Sydenham Street, Tankerton Road, Tower Way, Toddlers Cove, Victoria Recreation Ground, Victoria Street, Watling Street, Whitefriars, Whitstable Harbour, Whitstable Swimming Pool, William Street, Wincheap Park and Ride, Windsor House and Canterbury Coach Park.

(ii) Unless otherwise stated the above car parks are only available for use by:
(a) Motor Cars and Solo Motor Cycles
(b) Private light goods vehicles not exceeding 1.5 tonnes unladen weight and
(c) Minibuses and Motor Caravans if they fit within a marked bay
and the maximum period of waiting is 24 hours; except that where specifically delineated bays are available in car parks they are to be used only by a disabled person's vehicle displaying a disabled person's badge for a maximum of three hours in Pay and Display car parks on a free of charge basis after which payment must be made. In exceptional circumstances a permit may be available for those in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (Mobility Component at the Higher Rate) who live and/or work in the City subject to an administration charge of £12.50 (inclusive of VAT). The applicant for these permits will have to attend in person and show a current Blue Badge.

(iii) St Radigund's car park, Canterbury is available for public service vehicles displaying a permit issued by the Council and by motor cars and by private light goods vehicles not exceeding 1.5 tonnes unladen weight and by minibuses and motor caravans not exceeding 5.5m in length.

(iv) The maximum period of waiting in the Kingsmead Leisure Centre car park, Canterbury, is three hours in any 12 hour period and it is available for minibuses, motor cars, motorcycles, private light goods vehicles and public service vehicles in the bays provided.

(v) Canterbury Coach Park, Canterbury, is available for coaches, public service vehicles, minibuses and motor caravans. The Kingsmead car park will be used as an overflow coach park when necessary.

(vi) Gorrell Tank car park, Whitstable, is available for motor cars and private light goods vehicles and market traders' vehicles not exceeding 2.5 tonnes unladen weight, except for maintenance vehicles used in connection with the Pumping Station.

(vii) Orange Street car park, Canterbury, is only available for vehicles displaying a disabled person's badge.

(viii) Chapel Street car park, Herne Bay, is available for vehicles displaying a disabled person's badge during the day on Mondays to Saturdays and for vehicles displaying a residents' permit overnight and on Sundays.

(ix) William Street car park, Herne Bay, is available for coaches, public service vehicles, motor cars, private light goods vehicles and commercial vehicles.

(x) Neptune car park, Herne Bay, is available for motor cars, private light goods vehicles, public service vehicles and vehicles with trailers and trailers in the bays provided.

(xi) Albin's, Bisson's, Black Griffin Lane, Essex Street, Fountain Street, Hawk's Lane, New Street, Notley Street, Regent Street, Rye's, St John's Lane, St Peter's Grove, Salt Marsh Lane, Southern Way, Sydenham Street and Tower Way car parks are available for any period for vehicles displaying a residents' parking permit purchased from the Council. The permits are purchased annually and last for one year. They may no longer be available for those who hold an on-street parking permit. The cost of the residents' parking permits in respect of the car parks within Canterbury will be £340 per annum and £88 per annum for those in Whitstable except for the Sydenham Street which will be £20 per annum (all inclusive of VAT). A card for sites with barrier controlled access is available at a fee of £30. Franklyn House, Sturry and Windsor House, Whitstable car parks are available for permit holders only.

(xii) The Council Offices staff car park is available to persons resorting to the Council Offices for employment purposes in the spaces indicated who are displaying a valid staff parking permit, and on Saturdays and Sundays only, for the public. Solo motorcycles or motorcycles with side cars may also be parked in the spaces indicated. The Council Offices visitor car park is available to persons resorting to the Council Offices for business purposes for a maximum of four hours unless a special permit is displayed.

(xiii) Tankerton Road car park is also available for public service vehicles in the bays provided.

(xiv) Whitstable Swimming Pool car park is available for motor cars, minibuses and private light goods vehicles. The parking fee is no longer refunded to users of the adjacent ten pin bowling facility.

(xv) Holders of a business users reserved space permit are allowed to park their vehicles in Hawks Lane, Pound Lane, Rosemary Lane, St John's Lane and St Radigund's car parks. The holders of business users permits are able to park in any Canterbury pay and display car park except for North Lane, Pound Lane, Queningate and Watling Street car parks. The holders of a Castle Street business user permit may park in that car park between 7am and 11pm on any day.

(xvi) The holders of a Herne Bay Business User permit are allowed to park their vehicles in Beach Street, King's Road, Market Street, Neptune and William Street car parks.

(xvii) Holders of a Whitstable Business User permit are allowed to park their vehicles in Gladstone Road, Gorrell Tank, Keam's Yard, Middle Wall, Shaftesbury Road, Tankerton Road and Victoria Street car parks.

(xviii) Canterbury market trader permits are available for use in the Longport car park on Wednesdays or Fridays only at a cost of £175 per annum and on Wednesdays and Fridays at a cost of £350 per annum. A Herne Bay Market Trader Permit is also available for use in the William Street Car Park on Saturdays at a cost of £32 per annum and a Whitstable Market Trader permit is also available for use in Gorrell Tank car park on Thursdays at a cost of £32 per annum (all prices inclusive of VAT).

(xix) Permits will only be available on production of a valid full driving licence.

(xx) The definition of the parking arrangements for the Marlow Theatre will be amended.

(xxi) Commercial vehicles will be able to load and unload in the Station Road West car park whilst making deliveries to Sainsbury's in St Dunstan's Street.

(xxii) Holman's Meadow car park will become a central premium car park.

(xxiii) The maximum charge for Gorrell Tank car park, Whitstable will be removed.

(xxiv) Any person who has an outstanding penalty charge notice against them will not be granted any permit for use in the Council's car parks.

PART B

The Order provides the following scale of charges with effect from 1 April 2013:

Car Park	Charge
(i) **Whitefriars** (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)	
Between 6am and 6pm:	
Sunday to Friday:	
Minimum fee	£1.70
Per hour	£1.70
Saturdays:	
Minimum fee	£3.40
Per hour thereafter	£1.70
Over 5 hours	£20
Between 6pm and 12 midnight:	
Any period	£1.70
(No entry after 12 midnight)	

NOTE 1: Lost ticket charge £20

NOTE 2: Shop mobility users may park for up to three hours free of charge

(ii) **Central Premium, Canterbury – Holman's Meadow, Queningate, Watling Street** (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)	
Between 7am and 9pm daily:	
Minimum fee	70p
Sunday to Friday:	
Per hour	£1.30
Saturday	
Per hour	£1.50

NOTE 1: Watling Street car park will be free after 6pm on Thursday.

(iii) **Central, Canterbury – Castle Row, Millers Field, North Lane, Pound Lane, Rosemary Lane and St Radigund's** (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)	
Between 7am and 9pm daily:	
Minimum fee	70p
Per hour	£1.10
Castle Street	
Between 7am and 11pm daily:	
Minimum fee	70p
Per hour	£1.10

NOTE 1: Lost ticket charge for Castle Street £20

NOTE 2: Release fee for Castle Street is £50

NOTE 3: North Lane will have free parking for up to 20 minutes in specified marked bays.

Canterbury City Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2013

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

(iv) **Outer, Canterbury –**

Longport, Northgate and Station Road West (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)

Between 7am and 9pm daily:

Minimum fee	70p
Per hour	£1

NOTE 1: Station Road West will have free parking for up to 20 minutes in specified marked bays.

(v) **Recreation Ground Car Parks, Canterbury –**

Toddlers Cove and Victoria Recreation Ground (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)

Between 7am and 9pm daily:

Toddlers Cove

Up to 2 hours	10p
Over 2 hours an hourly rate of	£1

Victoria Recreation Ground

Up to 3 hours	10p
Over 3 hours an hourly rate of	£1

(vi) **Other Canterbury car parks –**

Cow Lane, Kingsmead and Maynard Road (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)

Between 7am and 9pm daily:

Up to 5 hours	80p**
5 to 24 hours	£2.20

Kingsmead Leisure Centre

Up to 3 hours	£3**

**This fee for the Kingsmead and Kingsmead Leisure Centre car parks will be refunded on admission to users of the Kingsmead Leisure Centre. Motorcycles will be free of charge.

(vii) **Long Stay, Herne Bay –**

Beach Street, King's Road* and Market Street (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)

Between 7am and 6pm:

Minimum fee	30p
Per hour	60p
Maximum charge	£3

*Not available on Saturday, some Sundays and Bank Holidays as a car park.

School Lane, Herne and Reculver Towers, Reculver (Motor cars, etc, as permitted)

Between 7am and 6pm daily:

Up to 30 minutes	20p
30 minutes to 2 hours	40p
2 to 24 hours	£1

(viii) **Short Stay, Herne Bay –**

William Street (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)

Between 8.30am and 8pm daily:

Minimum fee	40p
Per hour	80p

A maximum fee of £2.40 to be refunded upon admission to those persons using Herons Leisure Centre.

(ix) **Neptune** (Motor Cars only)

Between 8.30am and 8pm daily:

Minimum fee	40p
Per hour	80p

Neptune (Motor Cars with Trailers or trailers only)

Good Friday to 30 September

Any period	£11

Neptune (Motor Cars with Trailers or trailers only)

1 October to Maundy Thursday

Any period	£1.80

(x) **Whitstable Short Stay –**

Gladstone Road, Keam's Yard, Middle Wall, Shaftesbury Road and Victoria Street (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)

Between 8.30am and 8pm daily:

Minimum fee	40p
Per hour	80p

(xi) **Whitstable Harbour –**

Harbour (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)

Between 8.30am and 8pm daily:

Up to 30 minutes	60p
30 minutes to 1 hour	90p
1 to 2 hours	£3
Over 2 hours Charge incurred	Penalty

Oyster (Motor Cars etc)

Up to 30 minutes	60p
30 minutes to 1 hour	90p
1 to 3 hours	£3
3 to 5 hours	£3.50
5 to 24 hours	£4.60

NOTE: The Harbour car park is not available for holders of Whitstable Business User or Residents' Permits.

(xii) **Whitstable Long Stay –**

Gorrell Tank and Tankerton Road (Motor Cars, etc, as permitted)

Between 8.30am and 8pm

Minimum fee	30p
Per hour	60p
Maximum charge	£3

NOTE: The maximum charge will apply to Tankerton Road Car Park only.

(xiii) **Other Whitstable –**

Whitstable Swimming Pool

Between 7am and 10pm daily:

Any period	£1**

**NOTE 1: This fee will be refunded on admission to users of the Swimming Pool.

NOTE 2: The Swimming Pool car park is not available for holders of Whitstable Business User or Residents' Permits.

(xiv) Park and Ride Service

New Dover Road, Sturry Road and Wincheap, Canterbury

per day or part thereof	£3

(xv) Charges for Public Service Vehicles and Commercial Vehicles exceeding 2.5 tonnes unladen weight (as permitted):

Canterbury Coach Park and Kingsmead car park (coaches, minibuses, motor caravans)

Per 12 hours	£10

William Street and Neptune, Herne Bay and Tankerton Road, Whitstable

per day or part thereof	£3

(xvi) All other car parks Free

(Except those referred to in Part A (xi))

(xvii) **Permits – all prices are per annum and inclusive of VAT.**

Business User

Canterbury reserved space	£843
Canterbury	£665
Castle Street	£775
Herne Bay and Whitstable	£112
Whitstable Harbour	£100

Accommodation permits – available at £2 each and a Canterbury 24 hour permit available at £6 each with minimum purchases of 10 and 10% discount if 50 or more are purchased.

Worshippers Permit (available to park a motor car in named car parks for residents of the district, to Quakers resident in Swale district and to Anglican Catholic Church members resident in the Ashford district attending a service of worship on a regular basis)

Free but an administrative charge of £30 per new permit

Residents' off peak permit (limited) (available for residents to park a specified vehicle between 5pm on one day and 9am on the following day and all day on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays in all car parks except for Watling Street, Castle Street, Whitefriars, Kingsmead Leisure Centre and the Park and Ride car parks) £156

Residents' off-street permit (full) (available for residents to park a specified vehicle at any time in all car parks except for Watling Street, Castle Street, Whitefriars, Kingsmead Leisure Centre and the Park and Ride car parks) £560

Castle Street Residents' permit £575

Station Road West car park rail user permit available for rail season ticket holders to park on Mondays to Fridays £88 per month

Residents' permit for residents of Herne Bay and Whitstable for the parking of motor cars in all car parks in Herne Bay and Whitstable respectively other than Whitstable Harbour and the Swimming Pool car parks. £112

School Lane Residents Permit for the parking of a motor car in School Lane car park, Herne £112

(xvii) Pay and Display payment card

Discount of 10% for all pay and display car parks

(xviii) Park and Ride payment card

Discount of 20% for all Park and Ride car parks

(xix) Neptune car park parking card, Herne Bay (for commercial fishermen and regular users to park at any time in that car park).

50% discount rate of normal fee

(xx) Administration Fee

£10 per amendment

(xxi) Penalty charge – payable in the event of non or insufficient payment of above fees or any breach of the Order.

£70 or £50 PROVIDED that the penalty charge shall be reduced to £35 or £25 if payment is received by the Director of Resources within 14 days of the date on which the penalty charge was issued (or any other amount recommended by the Secretary of State for the time being and approved by Members of the Council.)

(NOTE: The above charges apply **every** day of the week including Bank Holidays unless stated).

Any of the car parks listed above, or parts thereof, may be closed by the Council when required for a purpose of the Council or authorised by them.

A copy of the draft Order, the Order amended by the proposals and the Statement of Reasons, may be examined at the Council's Offices as follows:

Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent.	Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm
Herne Bay Divisional Office, William Street, Herne Bay	Monday to Friday 8.45am to 4.45pm Saturday 9.30am to 1pm

If you wish to object to the proposed order, you should send the grounds for your objection, in writing, to the undersigned so as to arrive by 9am on 17 December 2012.

Dated this 25th day of November 2012.

Colin Carmichael
Chief Executive
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
Canterbury CT1 1YW

HIGHWAYS - ASHFORD AREA

CHEESEMAN'S GREEN LANE, KINGSNORTH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install a new water main, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cheeseman's Green Lane, Kingsnorth, on or after 29 November 2012 for up to 8 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with Church Lane as far as Hillcrest Farm, with no through access.

The alternative route is via Highfield Road, A20 Hythe Road, Bower Road, Church Road (Mersham), Flood Street and South Stour Road to Cheeseman's Green Lane.

The road will be re-opened over the Christmas period.

WYE LEVEL CROSSING, WYE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Wye Level Crossing, Wye, on or after 2 December 2012, between 7.00 am and 7.00 pm.

Bridge Street will be closed in the vicinity of the Level Crossing.

There will be no access for through traffic from Harville Road / Bramble Lane into the village of Wye.

The alternative route is via Bridge Street, Churchfield Way, High Street, Upper Bridge Street, Oxenturn Road, Naccolt Road, Hinxhill Road, The Street (Willesborough), A2070 Kennington Road & Willesborough Road, A28 Canterbury Road and Harville Road.

HIGHWAYS - CANTERBURY AREA

BROAD OAK LEVEL CROSSING, STURRY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance and repairs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Broad Oak Level Crossing, Sturry, on various nights from 3 December 2012, as shown below.

Broad Oak Road, Sturry will be closed at Broad Oak Level Crossing, at the following times:

Monday 3 December 2012 at 23:30 hrs to Tuesday 4 December at 05:30 hrs

Tuesday 4 December at 23:30 hrs to Wednesday 5 December 12 at 05:30 hrs

Wednesday 5 December at 23:30 hrs to Thursday 6 December at 05:30 hrs

Thursday 6 December at 23:30 hrs to Friday 7 December at 05:30 hrs

Thursday 20 December at 23:50 hrs until Friday 21 December at 05:40 hrs.

The alternative route is via Vauxhall Road, A28 Sturry Road, A28 Mill Road, A291 Sturry Hill, Sweechgate and Shalloak Road.

STURRY, ST STEPHEN'S AND CHARTHAM LEVEL CROSSINGS, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Sturry, St Stephen's and Chartham Level Crossings, Canterbury, on or after 2 December 2012 as shown below.

CHARTHAM LEVEL CROSSING

Station Road, Chartham will be closed at Chartham Level Crossing from Sunday 2 December at 0.30 am until Monday 3 December at 4.00 am.

The alternative route is via Station Road, A28 Ashford Road, Shalmsford Street, Bolts Hill, Parish Road and Church Lane.

ST STEPHEN'S LEVEL CROSSING

St Stephen's Road, Canterbury will be closed at the Level Crossing from Sunday 2 December at 6.00 pm until Monday 3 December at 4.00 am.

The alternative route is via St Stephen's Road, Station Road West, St Dunstan's Street, Forty Acres Road, Beaconsfield Road, St Stephen's Hill and St Stephen's Green.

STURRY LEVEL CROSSING

Mill Road, Canterbury will be closed at Sturry Level Crossing from Sunday 2 December at 7.00 pm until Monday 3 December at 4.00 pm.

The alternative routes are

Light vehicles and buses via A291 Sturry Hill, Herne Bay Road, Sweechgate, Shalloak Road, Broad Oak Road, Vauxhall Road, A28 Sturry Road and Mill Road.

All Vehicles over 7.5 T (except buses) via A291 Sturry Hill, Herne Bay Road, Canterbury Road, A299 Thanet Way, A290 Clapham Hill, Pean Hill, Honey Hill, Blean Common, Blean Hill, Tile Kiln Hill, Whitstable Road, St Thomas Hill, Whitstable Road, London Road, A2050 Rheims Way, A28 Ring Road, Sturry Road and Mill Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS) (CITY OF CANTERBURY) (VARIOUS TRAFFIC MOVEMENTS) (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO. 1) ORDER 2012

The Kent County Council in exercise of their powers under Sections 82 (2); 83 (2); and 84 (1) and (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act of 1984, has made an Order to:-

1. Introduce Prohibition of Right Turns from Sturry Road, Canterbury into the access road to the development located 200 metres north east from Sturry Road's junction with Vauxhall Road.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the Order and a statement of reasons for making the Order may be examined during normal office hours Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX and at Ashford Highway Depot, Henwood Industrial Estate, 4 Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS - MAIDSTONE AREA

GRIGG LANE, HEADCORN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install a new foul water pump main, washout chamber and a new gas main, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Grigg Lane, Headcorn, on or after 26 November 2012 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside Gibbs Hill Farm.

The alternative route is via Oak Lane, Forge Lane, Lenham Road, Baker Lane.

(HAM LANE, LENHAM, DISTRICT OF MAIDSTONE) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL intends to make the above named Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984:

The effect of the proposed named Order (Prohibition of Waiting) will introduce new or to amend existing waiting restrictions in the following lengths of road (in this part of the notice DYL means waiting to be prohibited at all times by double yellow lines);

Lenham:

Ham Lane: western side, that length that extends from its junction with A20 Ashford Road to its junction with Old Ham Lane in a southerly direction.

Ham Lane: that length which extends from its junction with A20 Ashford Road on the eastern side in a southerly then in a south-easterly direction for a distance of 482 metres.

Ham Lane: Southern side, that length which extends from its junction with Old Ham Lane for distance of 177 metres in a south-easterly direction.

Loder Close: Both sides, for its entire length in a westerly direction and for a distance of 10 metres on its SOUTHERN SPUR.

Old Ham Lane: Both sides, from its junction with Ham Lane for a distance of 16 metres in a south-westerly direction.

Full details are contained in the proposed Order, any Orders which will be amended by the proposed Order, a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order and maps indicating the location and effect may be examined at the Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX and at the Maidstone Borough Council Offices, The Gateway, King Street, Maidstone, ME15 6JQ during normal office hours.

Anyone wishing to support the new proposal or object to the proposed Order should send the grounds in writing to: The Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent County Council Highways Depot, 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 17th December 2012.

HEREFORD ROAD AND WHEELER STREET, MAIDSTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching, lining and repairs to a gully cover and frame, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hereford Road on or after 30 November 2012 and Wheeler Street on or after 20 January 2013 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

Hereford Road will be closed at the junction with Northumberland Road and Wheeler Street will be closed from Union Street to Holland Road.

The alternative route for Hereford Road is via Hereford Road, Worcester Road, Northumberland Road and for Wheeler Street from Union Street is via Union Street, Sittingbourne Road, Holland Road and from Holland Road is via Holland Road, Sittingbourne Road, Albion Place, King Street, Wyke Manor Road, Church Street, Union Street.

ROMNEY PLACE, MAIDSTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of danger to the public due to the increased Christmas traffic flow, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the left turn into Romney Place between 10th December 2012 and 24th December 2012.

The road will be closed at the junction with Lower Stone Street.

The alternative route is via Lower Stone Street, Mote Road, Wat Tyler Way, Padsole Lane.

TOWER LANE, BEARSTED & COLLIER STREET, COLLIER STREET, MAIDSTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of kerbing and carriageway patching repairs, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Tower Lane, Bearsted on or after 10 December 2012 & B2162 Collier Street, Collier Street on or after 27 January 2013 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

Tower Lane will be closed from Roseacre Lane to Yeoman Lane and Collier Street from B2162 Lamberhurst Road to Green Lane.

The alternative route for Tower Lane is via Roseacre Lane, A20 Ashford Road, Yeoman Lane and for B2162 Collier Street is via Green Lane, Underlyn Lane, B2079 Maidstone Road/High Street/Church Green/West End/Goudhurst Road/Winchett Hill/Summer Hill/North Road, A262 West Road/Clayhill, B2162 Horsmonden Road/Lamberhurst Road/Maidstone Road/Claygate.

HIGHWAYS - SHEPWAY AREA

DARBY ROAD (FOOTPATH), FOLKESTONE (RESTRICTIONS ON PEDESTRIANS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of improvement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to prohibit the pedestrian use of the footpath linking Darby Road with Foord Road

North, Folkestone, on or after 10 December 2012 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The footpath will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via Darby Road, Darby Place, Guildhall Street North, Copthall Gardens, Grace Hill and Foord Road.

HIGHWAYS - SEVENOAKS AREA

CHURCH ROAD, BRASTED, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the laying of a new water supply to number 111 Church Road on behalf of Thames Water, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Road, Brasted, Sevenoaks, on or after 26th November 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction of High Street and Coles Lane. There will be no access for through traffic between these junctions.

The alternative route is via Coles Lane, Rectory Lane, High Street.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, THE DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS) (20MPH, 30MPH, 40MPH, 50MPH SPEED LIMITS AND DERESTRICTED ROADS) AMENDMENT NO. 3 CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council proposes to make an Order under Sections 81, 82, 83 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to :-

1) Implement a 30 mile per hour speed limit along Old Marsh Green Road from its northeast junction with Marsh Green Road (B2028) to a point 125 metres north of its southwest junction with Marsh Green Road (B2028). 2) Implement a 40 mile per hour speed limit on Marsh Green Road (B2028) from a point 295 metres southwest of its southwest junction with Old Marsh Green Road southwestwards for a distance of 355 metres. 3) Implement a 40 mile per hour limit on Marsh Green Road (B2028) from its junction with Mill Hill/Hartfield Road (B2026) to a point 50 metres northeast of its southwest junction with Old Marsh Green Road

A copy of the proposed Order, an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of roads concerned may be inspected during normal office hours at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ or at the offices of the Kent County Council Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD

Any persons wishing to support the proposal, or to object to it should write to Laura Squires, Ashford Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or email tro@kent.gov.uk quoting the name of the Order and stating their reasons, by no later than 16/12/2012

HIGHWAYS - TONBRIDGE & MALLING

HIGH STREET, AYLESFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install a new gas, water and electricity supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on High Street, Aylesford, on or after 10 December 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside of Court Farm.

The alternative route is via Bull Lane, Pilgrims Way, Rochester Road.

(HIGH STREET, BOROUGH GREEN) (ZEBRA CROSSING) ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL, acting as the local Highway Authority and in exercise of its powers under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, intends to upgrade the existing uncontrolled pedestrian crossing to the type described in column 1 of the schedule hereto, at the locations described in column 2 of the said Schedule:

Type of Pedestrian Crossing	Location
Zebra	High Street, Borough Green, at a position 15 metres southwest of its junction with Western Road/A227.

A plan showing the location of the proposed Zebra Crossing may be inspected during normal working hours at Kent County Council, Sessions House, ME14 1XX, Maidstone or at Tonbridge & Malling Council Offices, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, ME19 4LZ.

If you wish to support for or object to the proposed Zebra Crossing you should send the grounds in writing quoting **'Borough Green Zebra Crossing Safety Improvements'** to Mr Ben Hilden, Kent County Council Highways, 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or email MHF@kent.gov.uk, by not later than 12 noon on 17th December 2012.

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

HIGHWAYS

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, PLATT)
(PROVISION OF TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES)
THE HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

AS AMENDED BY
THE TRANSPORT ACT 1981
AS AMENDED BY
THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under Section 90 "A" to Section 90 "I" of the Highway Act 1980 as amended by Section 32 and Schedule 10 of the Transport Act 1991 and by paragraph 12 of Schedule 4 of the Road Traffic Act 1991 and of all other enabling powers, proposes to provide the traffic calming measures described in the schedule hereto. The roads affected and the locations of the proposed measures are described in the schedule

A plan showing the locations of the proposed measures may be inspected during normal working hours at the offices of Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX and Kent County Council Highways Depot Javelin Way, Ashford TN24 8AD

Anyone wishing to support this proposal, or object to it, should write to Ben Hilden, Kent County Council Highways & Transportation, Javelin Way, Henwood Ind Estate, Ashford TN24 8AD or by email to MHF@kent.gov.uk by no later than 23rd December.

Schedule 1
Build Out with Single Speed Cushion
(Speed Cushion Dimension 75mm in height, 1600mm in length and 1300mm in width)

1	Outside Forest Villas, Long Mill Lane	Build Out Width 1100mm
2	Outside Amberley, Long Mill Lane	Build Out Width 1000mm
3	Outside Augustas, Long Mill Lane	Build Out Width 1200mm
4	Outside Bell Orchard, Long Mill Lane	Build Out Width 1400mm
5	Outside Badgers Rise, Long Mill Lane	Build Out Width 1600mm
6	Outside Pond Cottage, Long Mill Lane	Build Out Width 900mm
7	Outside The Old School Hall, Long Mill Lane	Build Out Width 2000mm
8	Outside Marloes, Long Mill Lane	Build Out Width 1200mm

Schedule 2
Pair of Speed Cushions
(Speed Cushion Dimension 75mm in height, 1600mm in length and 1300mm in width)

1	Outside St Mary's Church, Long Mill Lane

Schedule 3
Single Speed Cushion
(Speed Cushion Dimension 75mm in height, 1600mm in length and 1300mm in width)

1	Outside Ross Cottage, Long Mill Lane
2	Outside Summerleaze, Grange Road
3	Outside Sandy Bank, Grange Road

HIGHWAYS - TUNBRIDGE WELLS

IN THE BOROUGH OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS
KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(LOWER GREEN ROAD AT PEMBURY)
(ZEBRA CROSSING)
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, intends to install a zebra crossing at the location described in the schedule below.

A plan showing the location of the proposed zebra crossing may be inspected during normal working hours Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX or Kent County Council Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8AD.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Zebra Crossing you should send the grounds, in writing to Miss Laura Squires, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or email MHF@kent.gov.uk by noon on 17th December 2012.

SCHEDULE

Type of Pedestrian Crossing	Location
Zebra	Lower Green Road, Pembury at a point between 18 and 20 Lower Green Road.

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ **Dated 25th November 2012**

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

PUBLIC NOTICE
LICENSING ACT 2003

Notice is hereby given that Sajinthini John Francis has applied for the grant of a new premises licence for Calverley Food and Wine, 102 Calverley Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2UN to allow the following licensable activity; The sale by retail of alcohol for consumption off the premises only during the following hours: Monday to Sunday : 08.00hours to 23.00hours. Any person wishing to view details of an application may contact the Licensing Partnership on 01732 227004. Any person wishing to make representation about the application should make them in writing on or before the 11th December 2012 Licensing Partnership, PO BOX 182, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1GP licensing@sevenoaks.gov.uk http://pa.sevenoaks.gov.uk/online-licensing.
It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary of conviction for the offence is £5000.

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817056



To advertise in this section 01303 817056

MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

Applications have been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as venues for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Combe Bank School, Combe Bank Drive, Sundridge**
Applicant: **Dominic Rossi**
Name of Premises: **Oxon Hoath, Oxen Hoath Road, Hadlow**
Applicant: **Owen Tindle**
Name of Premises: **Woodlands Manor Golf Club, Tinker Pot Lane, Woodlands, Otford**
Applicant: **Kenneth Thornton**

The applications and plans of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Town Hall, 1-2 Guildhall Street, Folkestone**
Applicant: **Sharon Birch**
Name of Premises: **Folkestone Library, 2 Grace Hill, Folkestone**
Applicant: **Sharon Birch**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Nurstead Court, Nurstead Church Lane, Meopham**
Applicant: **Annabelle Stearns**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

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Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
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18. All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dates booked will be on a firstcome, first-served basis.
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20. Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within Archant KOS Media Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc) other than they will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
21. Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of Archant KOS Media Ltd and any action as a result of the public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from this via Archant KOS Media Ltd must be met by the advertiser.
22. a. All credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the date of the invoice, time to be of the essence. All sums due to Archant KOS Media Ltd shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.
b. In the event that payment is not received by Archant KOS Media Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract and make any surcharges for breaking the contract.
c. In the event that payment is not received by Archant KOS Media Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.
d. Not withstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of Archant Archant KOS Media Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
e. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by Archant KOS Media Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.
f. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
23. Any discount which Archant KOS Media Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
24. Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
25. All private advertisements and certain categories as laid down by Archant KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.
26. The Advertiser agrees to indemnify Archant KOS Media Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the companies within the Archant KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
27. An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
28. Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belong to Archant KOS Media Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's written consent.

All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. Archant KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.
Effective from June 2008

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PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD

NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

(PUBLIC FOOTPATHS AW15 AND AW15B CHARING) PUBLIC PATH EXTINGUISHMENT AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

On 31 October 2012 The Kent County Council confirmed the above Order under Section 118 of the Highways Act 1980. The effect of that Order as confirmed is to extinguish:-

i) the entire width of that length of public footpath numbered AW15 which commences at its connection with Church Hill (C92) at NGR TQ 92543 49244 (Point B) and runs in a south south westerly direction for 156 metres to its connection with Egerton Road (C144) at NGR TQ 92495 49095 (Point D).

ii) the entire width of that length of Public Footpath numbered AW15B which commences at its connection with Church Hill (C92) at NGR TQ 92620 49244 (Point C) and runs in a south westerly direction for 166 metres to its connection with Egerton Road (C144) at NGR TQ 92495 49095 (Point D).

As shown on the Order Plan. All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the Order Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Offices of the Ashford Borough Council, Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road ,Ashford, Kent, TN23 1AS or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

The Order came into force on 31 October 2012, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question its validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 25 November 2012, make an application to the High Court.

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF DOVER

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH EE345B

IN THE PARISH OF EYTHORNE
PUBLIC FOOTPATH EE345B (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION14 (1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath EE345B between Shepherdswell Road and the junction with Public Footpath EE344 (NGR TR 280 493) from the 10th December 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 24th December 2012.

The path will be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Denise Roffey

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDERS
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981
KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

PUBLIC FOOTPATH KH125 (PART) THURNHAM PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT ORDER 2012

PUBLIC FOOTPATH KH125 (PART) HOLLINGBOURNE PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT ORDER 2012

PUBLIC FOOTPATH KH130 (PART) HOLLINGBOURNE PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT ORDER 2012

The above Orders were made on the 13th day of November 2012 under section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 and will **divert: (1)** The entire width of that length of public footpath numbered KH125 commencing from a point to the south of Cobham OastHouse on Water Lane in the parish of Thurnham and running in an easterly and east south easterly direction for 510 metres to rejoin the unaffected length of KH125 at GR8195 5705. Between the points B and A on the Order Plan. **(2)** The entire width of that length of public footpath numbered KH125 Commencing from a point to the southwest of the property known as Whitehall in the parish of Hollingbourne and running in an east south-easterly direction through the garden of Whitehall for 33 metres to its junction with public bridleway KH134. Between the points A and B on the Order Plan. **(3)** The entire width of that length of public footpath numbered KH130 Commencing from a point 75 metres to the south west of Ripple Manor (GR.81964 56559) running in a north-easterly direction for 66 metres and then for 48 metres in a south-easterly direction to its junction with public bridleway KH134 (GR 82066 56559). Between the points A and B on the Order Plan.

The above Orders will **provide: (1) A new length of public footpath numbered KH125 in the parish of Thurnham** with a width of 2 metres commencing at GR8195 5705 and running south south-westerly through a woodland Shaw for 112 metres and then turning south-westerly crossing pasture for 190 metres to then run in a west north-westerly direction for 320 metres crossing pastureland to join and cross Water Lane at GR 8139 5698 to then run north north-easterly along the western side of the boundary hedge adjacent to Water Lane for 260 metres to junction with existing public footpath KH124. Between the points A, C, D, E, F, and G. **(2) A new length of public footpath numbered KH125 in the parish of Hollingbourne** with a width of 2.5 metres,(except at point A where the width is 1.1 metres and from point D towards point E on the Order Plan where the new route narrows to 1 - 1.4 metres for a distance of 3 metres), commencing at GR 82126 56987 and running in a south-westerly direction for 48 metres and then for 31 metres in an east south-easterly direction to rejoin public bridleway KH134. Between the points A, C and D on the Order Plan. **(3) A new length of public footpath numbered KH130** with a width of 2 metres, commencing at the point 75 metres to the southwest of Ripple Manor and running in an easterly direction for 92 metres to rejoin public bridleway KH134 at GR 82054 56533. Between the points A and C on the Order Plan.

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Orders and Maps may be seen free of charge at the offices of Maidstone Borough Council, King Street, Maidstone or at Kent County Council, Customer and Communities, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Orders and maps may also be bought there.

Any representation or objection to the orders may be sent or delivered in writing to Mr Chris Wade at Kent County Council (address as above) no later than the 27th December 2012. Please state the grounds on which it is made. If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council may itself confirm the orders as unopposed orders. If the orders are sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for confirmation any representations or objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the orders.

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF SWALE

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZF5

IN THE PARISH OF FAVERSHAM

PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZF5 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14 (1) AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath ZF5 between the car park at Front Brents (NGR TR 015 617) and the entrance to Front Brents Industrial Estate, (NGR TR 017 620) from the 19th November 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months. The works are expected to take no more than 3 days, commencement of the closure will be dependent on weather conditions, although it is expected that it will reopen before 21st December 2012.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users. A concrete pad has to be formed over an existing culvert to strengthen the structure.

The alternative route is via the car park and along Upper Brents and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michael Ellis

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 25th November 2012**

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council



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ARCHANT KOS MEDIA



Blockheads return is a reason to be cheerful

SEE PAGE 44



BLOOM IN WAITING

The pub that just needs a little TLC to hit the jackpot

SEE PAGE 45

Kent Weekend



Squeeze's Chris Difford and the Kent gig that was all a blur

SEE PAGE 43

PLUS: As the property market improves, one developer is confident - **property p47** Skoda's magnificently rapid release - **driving p51**







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THE INTERVIEW

Chris Difford

Back at the junction

Frontman talks with **Joe Bill** about the latest incarnation of Squeeze

SQUEEZE have done it all. The chart-topping hits, the bust-ups, the questionable rock'n'roll lifestyles and the series of triumphant comebacks. They have been cited as influences by many of today's top artists and their undeniable talent has seen them gather fans across four decades.

South London's premier proper pop group can be truly considered British musical legends as they confirm a return to form with a new album and winter tour.

Fronted by the pairing of Chris Difford and Glenn Tilbrook, Squeeze seem to have something that every band craves – longevity.

Guitarist, lyricist and singer Chris Difford, far left in the picture, has been an almost constant fixture of the Squeeze machine since its birth in 1974.

"We're a bit like the family cat – we go out and then we come back again," he said. "We've always been lucky like that – I can't complain, it's a really good place to find ourselves."

For a troupe that can boast former members such as boogie-woogie bastion Jools Holland and serial hit-writer Paul Carrack, eventual recognition within the higher echelons of British musical greatness was surely inevitable.

And those to have jumped on the recent Squeeze appreciation society bandwagon number the likes of Lily Allen, Mark Ronson, Kasabian and The Feeling.

"I don't tend to brush shoulders with too many people like that, but it's really comforting to know your fans include those kinds of people. Our fans are all over the place and all kinds of people, so we're very lucky," said Difford.

The band's contribution to music has been noted, with the site of their first gig awarded a prestigious PRS For Music Heritage Plaque, something that has also commemorated the debuts of Blur and Dire Straits.

Since their original comeback in 2007, Squeeze have claimed an Ivor Novello for Outstanding Contribution To British Music and a Nordoff-Robbins Icon Award, as well as the Mojo Magazine Icon Award.

It is Difford's lyrics and Tilbrook's music that have kept the legend living on with hits like Tempted, Up The Junction and Cool For Cats. And the good news from Difford is that there could be more to come.

"There's quite a lot of new stuff. That's what we're battling with at the moment – how to fit it all into the set. It's going to be exciting for the audience to hear all these new songs, and that will be exciting for us."

The old creative process has returned for the duo, who have each had relatively successful solo careers away from the group.



"It has been very much like how it was and we have a handful of new songs that we're very proud of. [During the writing] there was no tension particularly, but it takes a while to get back into the swing of things and doing what you have always done. So it took some time, but now we're there and very pleased with it.

"There's a new album there, but I don't know when it's due or when it's planned for. We haven't really talked about next year, but I expect it to be in the first half of 2013."

Having reformed with Squeeze veteran John Bentley and Tilbrook's Fluffers cohorts Stephen Large and Simon Hanson, the band have become a favourite on the festival circuit, with appearances at V, Oxegen, T In The Park and Latitude – they received particularly great acclaim at the seminal US Festival Coachella.

But they have always had their own way of doing things, and their new tour, entitled The Pop Up Shop 2012 Winter Tour, is exactly what it says on the tin.

"The show is recorded every night and there are computers backstage and to burn CDs, up to 60 at a time. Then we go to the merchandise stand to sign them and meet people.

"It became an idea because it's a great way of selling our wares – there aren't many record shops left and we sell our own CDs. That way we can get to our fans quicker than waiting for the normal channels of record sales to go through. I think the audience will enjoy it."

Difford has fond memories from the countless Squeeze tours, but Kent – in particular the Leas Cliff Hall – holds a special place in his heart.

"There are quite a few gigs I loved, but I have very fond memories of Folkestone. I remember we played there once years ago and we were using dry ice and managed to fill the room. For some reason the dry ice wouldn't go away.

"We didn't have any fans or ventilation, so it was like that the whole gig. It was weird, it was like playing in a fog – no one could see us. We had to open all the doors to get rid of it – I don't think we'll be doing that again."

But don't worry – fans can expect all the old favourites alongside their new works.

"Up The Junction is one of the most favoured songs that always gets asked for and we deliver. Tempted is always fun because it's different most nights. That one is really good to play. We're lucky in the variation of the set, so we can swing it from side to side and change it up.

"All I'm doing right now is listening to Squeeze and trying to remember the chords."

Former Housemartin and Beautiful South frontman Paul Heaton will be supporting Squeeze on the 20-date tour, performing songs from his extensive back catalogue.

■ **Squeeze play the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, on Tuesday, November 27. Phone 0844 8717627 or visit www.gigsandtours.com to book tickets.**



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Rhythm sticks ready!

The Blockheads

The Mick Jagger Centre, Dartford
Saturday, December 1
01322 291100
www.themickjaggercentre.com

THE Blockheads are bringing their 35th-anniversary tour to Kent next month.

Originally fronted by Ian Dury, the 1977 band have continued to perform and write material since his death in 2000.

Current members include originals Chaz Jankel, Mick Gallagher and John Turnbull as well as Norman Watt-Roy on bass guitar, Davey Payne on saxophone and singer Derek Hussey, who was close friends with Drury.

The Blockheads are best known for their singles What A Waste, Hit Me With Your Rhythm Stick, Reasons To Be Cheerful and Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll.

Tickets cost £19, or £17 for concessions.

Book signing

Ross Kemp on war heroics

Waterstones, Bluewater
Monday, December 3
0870 777 0252
www.bluewater.co.uk

AWARD-WINNING documentary presenter Ross Kemp heads to the Waterstones book store at Bluewater next month.

The former EastEnders hardman will be meeting fans and signing copies of his latest book, Raiders, on Monday, December 3, from 5.30pm.

The book covers six daring raids that changed the course of British history, including Operation Deadstick, the story of the first Allied forces into the fray on D-Day, tasked with seizing two bridges to prevent a German counter-attack.

Kemp is highly regarded for his documentaries across the world and especially his coverage of life for British and American soldiers involved in the war in Afghanistan.





Birds of prey

Let someone fly a raptor

Rare Breeds Centre
01233 861493
www.rarebreeds.org.uk
info@rarebreeds.org.uk

A CHRISTMAS gift that soars above many others is being offered by the Rare Breeds Centre at Woodchurch: the chance to fly birds of prey.

The centre is encouraging potential falconers to spread their wings with tuition from head falconer Colin Boardman.

He said: "I introduce people to the range of birds we have, such as falcons, owls and hawks, and the equipment.

"I help them to understand how to handle the birds. And, of course, there is plenty of flying."

Taster sessions run from 10.30am-12.30pm and cost £50. A full day's course runs from 10.30am-4pm and costs £100, while you can fly a Harris hawk for £15 for half-an-hour or £25 for an hour.

Ice to see you

Rink is back for Christmas

Calverley Grounds, Tunbridge Wells
Open until Monday, January 7
tunbridgewellsatchristmas.com

THE outdoor ice-skating rink in picturesque Calverley Grounds is returning – and this year it will be even bigger!

New for 2012, families can enjoy a magical visit to Father Christmas in his log-cabin that overlooks the ice-rink.

You can skate with family and friends while spectators indulge in a hot chocolate or glass of mulled wine.

The rink will be open every day and evening – advanced booking is recommended at peak times.

One hour's skating, including boot-hire, costs from £7.50 for children and £9.50 for adults.

Tickets to see Father Christmas will be £9.50 per child (one free adult per paying child). This fee includes one photograph and a gift for the child.



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Budding gem on the edge of town is just waiting to burst into flower

RESTAURANT **REVIEW**

IF the hype is to be believed, the most wholesome, finest foods are leaping from the kitchens of what we perceive as classic restaurants and into the rising number of gastropubs.

After all, there is an informal charm to eating next to, or across the room from, a busy bar. You get a ready-made atmosphere and a sense that you're in the centre of a community.

But while every pub landlord knows that providing a solid food offering will swell its coffers in a challenging marketplace, it's too much to expect every drinking hole to suddenly be providing a menu worthy of the highest expectations.

Whitstable has more restaurants along its high street than it has tired old references to oysters. Pubs, on the other hand, have been a tad sluggish to embrace the food opportunity.

There's Richard Phillips's Pearson's Arms on the seafront, and that's pretty much it.

But venturing away from its heart offers up some options.

The Rose in Bloom pub enjoys one of the most beautiful settings in the town – with expansive views across the beach but set along Joy Lane on the edge of town.

A modern-looking pub, it boasts a conservatory with sea views that has been converted into a restaurant. With its wooden floors, heavy tables and modern décor, it could be a gem.



Instead, it's a run-of-the-mill diner that you cannot help think could do so much more.

Turning up for a Sunday lunch, the roast-beef-and-all-the-trimmings meal reeked of mere acceptability rather than anything that had had genuine love and attention poured into it.

The portions were generous, but the veg was not a million miles from being at home on a school dinner plate, and the beef was drenched in gravy to disguise run-of-the-mill cuts. At £8.95, this is not the cheap end of the market.

My partner had opted for the beer-battered cod with veg for the same price. The batter was light and tasty, but the cod was both over-cooked and tasteless. The chips were thick and fresh, however, and the highlight of the main course.

Desserts – raspberry cheesecake and chocolate cake – were both very rich but well presented and tasty, the chocolate cake gently heated to ensure the sauce was melt-in-the-mouth.

However, while the main course was not offensive, it wasn't up to scratch.

All of which was a real shame as the restaurant does pack a certain charm – it's a little like stepping back in time to restaurants that thought they were cutting edge... in the 80s.

But the pub is nice, and on a summer's day a glass of wine looking down over the sea is a life-enhancing experience.

The Rose in Bloom could, if it wanted to embrace more than just a modern image, become a real destination for the thousands who flood into Whitstable. Instead, it is merely OK. Which is no great criticism, and for £12.95 each for two courses and drinks on top, perhaps we should expect nothing more.

Chris Thomson

■ **Rose in Bloom**
69 Joy Lane, Whitstable CT5 4DD
Telephone 01227 276502

Giraffe stretches out to the Wintergarden

POPULAR family restaurant chain Giraffe has opened a new venue at the Wintergarden at Bluewater shopping centre.

The attractive floor-to-ceiling glass windows overlook the lake, making for a relaxed setting for adults, while the children can take a look at the 15ft giraffe adorned with classic Beano comics that stands tall in the centre of the eatery.

Open from breakfast through to dinner, the menu is crafted from fresh ingredients and there are dishes to suit every taste.

The Giraffe menu includes breakfasts, burgers, salads, desserts, Fairtrade coffee, smoothies and cocktails.

Ambrette: cheap eats and ready to compete

THE Ambrette restaurant in Margate has been named in the top 130 restaurants in the country at which to eat for less than £50.

The Sunday Times 'Cheap Eats' guide lists the venue as one of the 10 best in the South East and one of only three in Kent, the others being JoJo's in Whitstable and Café Mauresque in Canterbury.

Chef patron Dev Biswal said: "National recognition for The Ambrette is good news for the local Thanet economy – whenever we are featured in the national Press, we received bookings from gastro tourists from far and wide, many of whom take a mini break in the area."





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(T&C's below)

BLACK African lady, late 30's, no ties, likes country walks, gardening, cinema, seaside, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393272**

5FT female, brown hair, 39, single mum, seeks caring, dedicated guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397915**

JOYCE 82, widow, seeking man who is fun loving and good humoured for meals out, 60-70's. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393067**

FEMALE seeks Prince Charming, 20-30 to sweep her off her feet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392891**

NICKY 45, 5ft 2ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for genuine male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389774**

COUNTRY loving outgoing female, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, genuine, caring, intelligent, seeks honourable, smart, professional male, 68-75 to share laughter and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392899**

MARY 61, lot to give, likes country/western, animals, gardening, dancing, seeking someone special. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399269**

MIRANDA early 60's, sociable, friendly, seeking similar N/S solvent, presentable, easygoing male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394843**

BLACK beautiful female, 5ft 7ins, likes most things in life, seeks special male for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398391**

SINGLE mum, new to Canterbury, 37, attractive, blonde, seeking soul mate, preferably with car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397751**

52YR old female, single mum of 2, seeking honest, caring, decent man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389891**

SUSIE young 55, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest guy from Medway towns. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389027**

RETIRED teacher, blonde, 5ft 4ins, medium build, youthful, easy-going, likes most things, seeks tall, refined gent for meaningful relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397363**

DEBBIE 50, seeking man, 60 plus with GSOH for fun nights out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398173**

DEBBIE 47, single parent, likes motorsport, seeking male with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398127**

YOUNG looking lady, late 50's, medium build, caring, intelligent, seeks kind, caring, intelligent man with GSOH of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398095**

ANNETTE 58, 5ft 1ins, cuddly, affectionate, likes animals, seeks kind, gentleman to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394923**

LYN 59, slim, fair, looking for someone to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397347**

LOUISE loving, caring, thoughtful lady, likes photography, countryside, animals, seeks mature, N/S, genuine, caring, N/S gent with car to settle down with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397239**

BLACK female, 30, likes animals, swimming, music, singing, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395941**

LUCY kind caring, honest, fuller figured, blonde, blue eyes, 44, looking for older man, kind, caring and honest. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395805**

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, medium build, 49, bubbly, looking for male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386401**

CLAUDIA curvy size 20, Mediterranean, blonde hair, brown eyes, seeks mature male, 40-55 for friendship, companionship and enjoy life together. Ashford. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373611**

HAPPY go lucky lady, seeks tall, honest guy, 50-56 hopefully with a boat. Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392529**

PAT 67, 5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair, widow, likes dancing, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390201**

KENTISH lady, 50, no longer wishes to make do or mend broken heart, seeks kind gent to form patchwork moments. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392865**

MARGARET 57, looking for male companionship with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390248**

MARY 62, fun loving, enjoy most things, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, size 14, lives alone in country, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385189**

45YR old female, 5ft 5ins, brown hair, cuddly, curvaceous, love animals, music, sports, seeks kind, caring, sincere, mature male, 40 plus with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381319**

PAT widowed mid 60's blonde female, loves dancing, happy-go-lucky WLTM similar aged nice male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389195**

FEMALE 21, brown eyes, loving, looking for male, 20-30 for nights in and loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396057**

INTERESTING attractive, uncomplicated, intelligent lady, many interests, seeks honourable, kind gent, 68-75 for long term companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392211**

FOLKESTONE lady, 58, 5ft 1ins, animal lover, cuddly, affectionate, GSOH, seeks male, 58-63 to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395551**

SANDRA 63, likes cuddles, varied interests, WLTM male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383497**

SUE 54, fairly slim, blue eyes, brown hair, seeks male, 45-55, N/S, likes football, sports, meals out etc., looking for lasting relationship and cuddles. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392803**

SANDRA outgoing 53, carer, seeks male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390230**

48YR old female, kind, loving, caring, genuine, fun loving, loves music, singing, theatre, holidays, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387797**

FEMALE looking for male for friendship and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392365**

WIDOW 70's, many interests, seeks gent who misses companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396401**

SUE 53, slim, blue eyes, likes football, animals, seeks N/S male, 45-55 for loving, lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386247**

FEMALE likes country walks, gardening, animals, seeks male for company, meals out and nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390147**

LYNETTE 60, South African, new to area, N/S, sociable, like the outdoors, looking for new friends. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386387**

HAPPY young looking 71yr old female, likes life, fit, active, seeks male, 60 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393065**

CARING affectionate female, 64, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, seeks male, 60-70 with GSOH for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384871**

LISA tall slim elegant black lady looking for gentleman for company, 50-90yrs. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391394**

BEVERLEY 33, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male, 40-45 for walks, karaoke and meals out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375217**

47YR old female, 5ft 6ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389413**

TERRI young at heart, fit, caring, N/S, 70's, many interests, Taurus, seeks kind, N/S gent, 65-70 with GSOH to share life and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390671**

TRACEY 46, 5ft 8ins, long hair, fit, slim, seeks honest, reliable, attractive, tall, slim guy for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 335375**

VALERIE looking for genuine male for nights out and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387173**

ANNETTE 58, 5ft 1ins, cuddly, affectionate, N/S, likes a drink, good food, easy-going, GSOH, seeks loving male to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393143**

SUSIE fit, friendly, looking for someone to love and look after me, preferably, older, N/S male with own car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392537**

SEMI retired N/S ex dancer, many interests, honest, attractive, GSOH, seeks gent, 65 plus to put spark back into life and be soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378279**

BLACK lady, 52, likes cinema, nights in/out, seeking male, 49-55 to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390925**

SUSIE from Kent, seeking tall honest guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375883**

MARY likes most things, nights out, socialising, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383847**

LONELY Folkestone lady, 57, 5ft 1ins, medium build, N/S, seeks caring, considerate male for walks by the sea and pubs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371067**

JANET happy go lucky, young 60, likes meals out, music, animals, seeks male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391071**

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384852**

SANDRA 63, varied interests, cinema, walks, animals, meals out, N/S, social drinker, cuddly, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385315**

BIG blonde and beautiful 43tyr old, GSOH, seeks genuine, honest, loyal, caring male, 40-50 with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390215**

LOVELY lonely lady, fit and active, many interests, seeks N/S fun loving guy with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384951**

SHARON 50, widowed, looking for nice gent to take out to theatre, cinema, country walks and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384497**

WANNABEE stay at home home maker, educated, well built, loving, 54, seeks sincere, loving gent, 58-68 for happy LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391328**

HAZEL blonde, 62, pretty, cuddly, N/S, non drinker, seeks genuine, attractive male, 55-65 for fun and friendship. Ramsgate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366319**

JO bubbly, fun, red hair, green eyes, 5ft 5ins, likes nights out, DVDs, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374337**

MAIDSTONE lady, pretty, petite, late 50's, honest, caring, N/S, loves life and most things, seeks nice guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366501**

JULIE late 70's, petite, widowed, seeks gent with car and GSOH who loves animals. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379277**

CLARE 5ft 5ins, looking for soul mate, older man, 45-50's with car to settle down with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389133**

FEMALE 42, understanding, seeks romantic, understanding, outgoing male, 45-50 for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383001**

CHRISTIAN 60yr old dog owner, likes countryside, culture, seeks likeminded kind man for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384989**

INDEPENDENT 52yr old slim, N/S female, likes country walks, swimming, animals, meals/days out, seeks N/S similar aged male for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 366099**

ANNA 62, seeks guy, 59-65 with an interest in the simple things in life for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 346707**

WENDY darling, young OAP, seeks Peter Pan to find Neverland, must be N/S, like dogs, have GSOH and be young at heart. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395441**

YOUNG 54yr old female, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest, caring guy for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362669**



IVY May tall, slim, seeking older, generous, kind, caring male, 75-80 for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385505**

CANDY 42, blonde, blue eyes, GSOH, bubbly, seeks older male, 75 plus, kind, caring and honest. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391012**

PAULINE 38, teacher, easygoing, friendly, likes films, walks, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387358**

49YR old lady, honest, sincere, easygoing, likes a laugh, looking for love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359059**

LADY 56, semi disabled, size 18, seeking a caring, loving, honest gent, 50 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 365453**

SINGLE 50 plus female, seeks male who likes talks, walks, dining and dancing. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 364975**

PROFESSIONAL female, late 30's, own business, seeks honest male for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388370**

SUE 58, likes walks, meals out, socialising, seeks large male, 6ft plus for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389135**

LONELY lady, retired nurse, 68, likes country/western music, nights in/out, GSOH, seeking male of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385835**

BLACK female, 33, single mum, loving, honest, caring, kind, seeks professional, kind, honest male, 34-44. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387565**

MARY fun loving brunette, seeking friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382689**

BERYL retired nurse, Medway area, looking for similar male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384635**

LISA N/S, easygoing, friendly, bubbly, petite, likes swimming, football, walking, holidays, pubs, seeks male to share interests with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372595**

CARING genuine single mum seeks male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358719**

63YR old female, loving, tactile, seeks genuine male, 60-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381863**

PAM nice lady, looking for special male who is genuine with GSOH to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387332**

FEMALE likes coast walks, shopping, gardening, countryside, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381463**

ANNA 5ft 4ins, 63, N/S, seeks N/S, genuine man for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374589**

ANITA 58, green eyes, auburn hair, 5ft 3ins, likes shopping, holidays, cinema, shows, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374745**

GENUINE loving female, 40, seeks loving male, 40-50 for friendship and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 345487**

FUN outgoing lady, seeks spontaneous male, 37-60, adventurous, professional, attractive. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 363331**

LADY 50, single, enjoys nights in/out, cinema, travel, country walks, seeks sincere, genuine male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367851**

PETITE female, slim, attractive, blonde hair, green eyes, GSOH, romantic, likes sports, nights out, meals, seeks honest, genuine, N/S male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 334613**

MAISY seeks male who likes dogs, country walks, beach, meals out and knows there own mind for a relationship and to build memories, fun loving lady 47. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383733**

MALE 67, 14st, tall, educated, happy go lucky, seeks nice female, 50-65 for companionship. Folkestone/Deal area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398743**

RICHARD seeking young female for good times and fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397883**

WIDOWER 70, lonely, fed up, seeks female for nights out, meals and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397875**

MARTYN 45, average guy, likes films, theatre, meals out, GSOH, seeks similar female for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397863**

63YR old male, seeks similar aged female for possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393224**

SLIM retired gent, seeks female, 55-70 for friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397723**

PHIL biker, single dad, slim, seeks similar slim female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397705**

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YOUNG 64yr old male, slim, GSOH, adventurous, outgoing, likes most things, seeks easy going, laidback, open-minded lady for friendship and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399539**

BRIAN 6ft 3ins, medium build, dark hair, seeking romantic, caring lady for meals out, nights in, cuddles and true love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399451**

ADRIAN young 59, likes travel, sports, seeks fun, attractive lady 40-50's. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399355**

20YR old male, looking for female, 45-50 for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393676**

YOUNG toy boy, GSOH, seeks mature, attractive, curvy lady, 45-55 for fun times and laughter. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398419**

74YR old widower, honest, fit, likes walks, weekends away, seeks lady for companionship. Maidstone/Medway area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398247**

BOBBY 39, Afro/Asian decent, dark hair/eyes, likes nights in/out, walks, animals, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398147**

PAUL 51, blond, blue eyes, fed up, likes walks, nights in/out seeks lady, 50-60 for friendship and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398991**

PHIL young 63, GSOH, 6ft, medium build, easy going, seeking female, all woman for lots of love and attention. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399149**

RICHARD 60, 5ft 11ins, medium build, N/S, driver, looking for female for meals out, places of interest. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393508**

THANET male, smart, young 60's, caring, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim, attractive, local soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398661**

ROGER 56, smoker, brown hair/eyes, average build, likes most things, seeks female for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397243**

DAN 44, fun, seeking nice female to share Sundays and lonely Winter nights with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398425**

PAUL 63, white, N/S, GSOH, varied interests, considerate, reliable, caring, seeks romantic, understanding lady, 47-67 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398971**

GHOST researcher 65, slim, dark hair, WLTM amiable, slim female companion in Canterbury/Folkestone area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398937**

MARK 49, likes running, music, cinema, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393554**

RICHARD dark hair, blue eyes, slim-medium build, 5ft 6ins, likes holidays, theatre, travel, countryside, walks, meals out, seeks female, 37-69 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398767**

HANDSOME tall guy 40's, slim, smart, climber, skier, holidayed, happy disposition, seeks slim, petite lady for great relationship/times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397271**

PROFESSIONAL male, OHAC, independent, early 40's, likes good things in life, seeks warm, sincere female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398115**

ALAN 72, WLTM someone nice, age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393719**

RAY 41, shy, likes gardening, allotments, mopeds, seeks shy lady 41-50 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397301**

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Owning your home is more popular than a big wedding

FOR couples these days, a home is taking precedence over celebrations of marriage, according to a survey.

Newly-weds are favouring mortgages over big weddings in a bid to get on the property ladder, new research from Barclays has revealed.

It showed 52 per cent of UK residents would choose to put their savings towards a deposit for a property.

Also a significant number of those who took part in the study said they would consider delaying – or even abandoning – the actual wedding if they could ensure they obtained a property.

The average cost of a wedding is in the region of £20,000, which could go quite a distance towards ensuring that a mortgage is ready for couples so they can purchase a home.

Also, 13 per cent would consider asking guests for a monetary contribution towards the cost of their wedding instead of a traditional gift.

Property sales are rising as mortgage schemes help new buyers into market

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

SALES of homes are on the rise and the market is getting back on its feet, according to recent analysis.

Darren Jones, managing director of Persimmon Homes South East, said he was pleased with the performance of the business and believed it was on track to meet end-of-year expectations.

According to figures from the company, the autumn selling season has seen visitor rates rise 6 per cent ahead of this time last year and weekly private sales rates rise 4 per cent.

Jones said: "House-buyers in our region have been helped by the cost of mortgage loans reducing slightly as lenders access the Government's Funding for Lending Scheme and pass the lower costs through to our customers.

"The take-up of the Government-backed 5 per cent deposit NewBuy mortgage product has also helped our region, with a steady increase in customers purchasing a home with a NewBuy mortgage."

Persimmon has been trading since 1972 and operates under three main brands, Persimmon Homes, Charles Church and Westbury Partnerships. It added to that tally last month with the acquisition of house-builder Hillreed Homes.

The business has recently opened developments at The Reeds, Lower Halstow, and will soon be marketing homes at Waterside at The Bridge, Dartford.

Jones said: "A critical part of our strategy is the continued investment in new land to support the growth of Persimmon within the region.

"The UK housing market continues to be challenging and mortgage availability remains the key constraint; however, we remain confident of the future successful growth of Persimmon."



POSITIVE: Persimmon's Darren Jones says the Government's Funding for Lending Scheme has given a welcome boost to the property market



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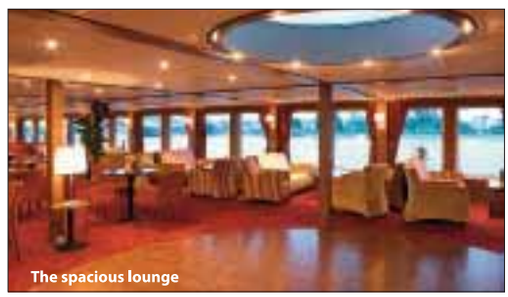
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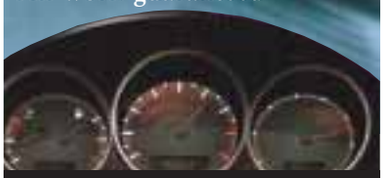
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Best rival: Ford Focus

Rapid makes it a magnificent seven for the Skoda portfolio

HERITAGE means pride and pressure at Skoda.

The Czech marque loves model names from its pre-war heyday, so the range flagship is the Superb – it's good, especially for the money, but perhaps a little short of superb.

Now we have the Rapid, but unfortunately it's not. And Skoda has previous on this one, applying the same name to a coupé based on the dreadful Estelle – one of the final models of Skoda's Iron Curtain era before VW took over.

That wasn't Rapid, either.

Still, putting trade-description discrepancy to one side, the new Rapid becomes Skoda's seventh model and marks a reconstruction of its range that also involves the Octavia – the car that started the modern-day Skoda revival.

The Octavia has long been a little too big for the family hatchback or Focus/Golf sector but too small for the fleet/family car Mondeo/Insignia sector.

So the next-generation car will grow to attack Mondeo and Co, leaving space for the Rapid.

In so many ways it is the new Octavia and fans will recognise all the traits of their old favourite: value with quality plus dependability and customer satisfaction.

With its Audi-esque crisp shoulder line and what is expected to become the new Skoda corporate nose, it also looks upmarket for a car starting at just £12,900, though you need at least £14,650 to get air-con and alloys as standard.

Thoughts of Audi are dispelled, though, by a robust but simply functional cabin. However, it's vast for the size of the car and allows the Rapid to carry adults front and back with plenty of leg and headroom.

It's also versatile with that upmarket saloon silhouette disguising a hatchback; the tailgate is not a clever two-part job like the Superb's, but a simple tailgate that opens to 550 litres with seats up and 1,490 with seats down – the latter figure makes some estate cars in the segment look sad.

The Rapid is offered with four petrol engines and one diesel, underlining Skoda's view that most demand will come from savvy private-car-buyers.

Based on a head-to-head between the 104bhp 1.6TDI diesel and 85bhp 1.2TSI turbocharged petrol models I drove, I would certainly take the latter. Not only does the diesel engine add almost £2,000 to the price, but it's also not much better on fuel and CO_2 emissions – you would need to cover many miles to claw back that extra two grand in better fuel economy.

Its weight also dulls the car's responsiveness, not that the Rapid purports to be a driver's car; the chassis is biased towards comfort and Skoda's marketing people were adamant there will be no vRS sporting model to glam up the range.

That sub-branding that will be reserved for the next Octavia.





DON'T LIKE

... the regimented look of the interior, but you cannot fault its functionality and the likelihood that everything will work for years to come.

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Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the ŠKODA range: Urban 19.2 (14.7) – 68.9 (4.1), Extra Urban 36.2 (7.8) – 94.2 (3.0), Combined 27.7 (10.2) – 83.1 (3.4). CO_2 emissions for the ŠKODA range 237 – 89 g/km.

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35 monthly payments of	£189.00	Amount of credit	£9,148.00
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Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Rapid: Urban 33.6 (8.4) – 50.4 (5.6), Extra Urban 53.3 (5.3) – 76.3 (3.7), Combined 35.3 (8.0) – 64.2 (4.4). CO_2 emissions for the Rapid 146 – 114 g/km.

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Eco Rio shows Kia's ambition

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

CALLING a car the 'Rio' might suggest some Latin American swagger, but the first two Kia Rio generations lacked the essence of bustling Rio de Janeiro.

Then again, it's probably optimistic to suggest that any supermini can assail the senses like the city of carnival and Copacabana Beach.

But the leap in style and attraction shown by generation-three Rio does at least highlight Kia's ambition – the sort of audacity that has made an economic powerhouse out of Brazil's second city.

Launched last year, the latest Rio relies less on Kia's old value-for-money pitch – including its unique seven-year/100,000-mile Kia warranty – and more on the kind of technology, quality and dynamics that are the stock-in-trade of Western rivals like the Ford Fiesta, VW Polo and Vauxhall Corsa.

And the latest Rio is good-looking, too; more proof after Kia's latest eye-catching Sportage SUV that former Audi design ace Peter Schreyer – the man who created the original TT – is at the helm.

And there's a Rio version that's also one of the most eco-friendly cars on the market.

It's the 1.1-litre diesel tested here and available from £12,095 in three-door form, though ours was the £13,795 mid-spec Rio 2 five-door – five-door variants command a £600 premium over their less practical but sportier-looking three-door equivalents.

In our car the 1.1 diesel offers 74.3mpg on the combined cycle and exemption from road tax due to CO_2 emissions of just 99g/km, helped by Kia's Intelligent Stop & Go (ISG) system for best economy during city driving or motorway hold-ups – part of the fuel/emissions-saving 'Ecodynamics' system that is standard on all Rio diesels.

Admittedly, choosing a three-cylinder format for a diesel was always going to be a challenge to refinement, but the little 74bhp unit settles well for steady cruising, helped by a six-speed gearbox.

KIA RIO 2 1.1 CRDI 5-DR ISG: PRICE £13,795



BETTER BY DESIGN: Kia's new Rio may lack some of the sparkle of the city after which it is named, but it comes with a version that's one of the most eco-friendly on the market

It's never zesty, though, so urban users must ask whether they really do want this version's out-and-out economy, or a bit more welly for cut-and-thrust town traffic – there are 1.4-litre petrol and diesel options, plus a dreary 1.25-litre entry-level petrol, and all will out-accelerate the 1.1's modest 0-60mph in 14.9 seconds.

Whatever the engine choice, though, you get lots of car for your money; though the previous and rather chunky Rio looked like it belonged to the car sector above supermini, its replacement is longer and wider yet appears smaller.

This optical illusion has been achieved by low and rakish coupé-styling, which doesn't actually impinge on interior space because Kia engineers and designers have inserted a 70mm stretch to the wheelbase when compared with the previous Rio, while the base of the steeply-raked screen sits a whopping 156mm further forward than before.

So adults get great legroom front and back, even if the enlarged boot is still only average for the class, while the interior is sensibly organised with decent stowage space.

The durability of the fixtures and fittings is clear even if quality is still a little off the pace in places, but you can only applaud the strides made by Kia in just 10 years.

As ever with Kia, the kit is generous, with the test car coming with air-con, alloys, electric folding/heated/adjusting door mirrors, leather-trimmed wheel and gearknob, electric windows all round, plus Bluetooth hands-free phone and USB/Aux connectivity

Driver feedback is less relevant in this eco version and the slightly vague Rio steering won't worry anyone not bothered about pressing on, though the chassis has good poise when pushed while still delivering good ride quality, so it's worth checking out the other engine options

FACT FILE

Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Road tax:	£0/year one
Best rival:	For Fiesta

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Suzy quattro's face for 2013

WINTER'S here and some drivers may be turning their minds to buying a 4x4.

And they don't combine cheapness and ability better than Suzuki's compact Jimny (from £11,995).

It's been refreshed for 2013, too, with new front-bumper and grille, new seat fabric for the SZ3 entry model, new headrests and Isofix child seat mountings fitted as standard to the rear seats.



Mini is upping the pace, man

BMW'S Mini arm lifts its model line-up to seven next March with a sporty three-door yet versatile coupé version of the Countryman SUV brand flagship.

The Paceman (from £18,970) shares the same nose and will be available with front-whee-drive or 4x4 but is lower and has a more horizontal theme to the back end, which lowers the car visually.



Big sales for Ford mini MPV

FORD'S B-Max baby MPV (from £12,995) sold an astonishing 1,000 units in its first six weeks on sale.

The car's big feature is the missing 'B' pillars between its doors, strengthened to cope with a collision and, when open, creating a 1.5-metre unobstructed opening – highlighted in a Ford TV ad showing a high diver passing through the car before hitting the water.

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Official Government fuel consumption figures (Range): Urban cycle, Extra urban, Combined (litres per 100km/mpg) & CO_2 emissions (g/km); Highest: Citroën C3 VTi 120 automatic Exclusive 9.4/30.1, 5.0/56.5, 6.6/42.8, 153. Lowest: Citroën C3 e-HDi 70 Airdream EGS VTR+ 3.6/78.5, 3.2/88.3, 3.4/83.1, 87.

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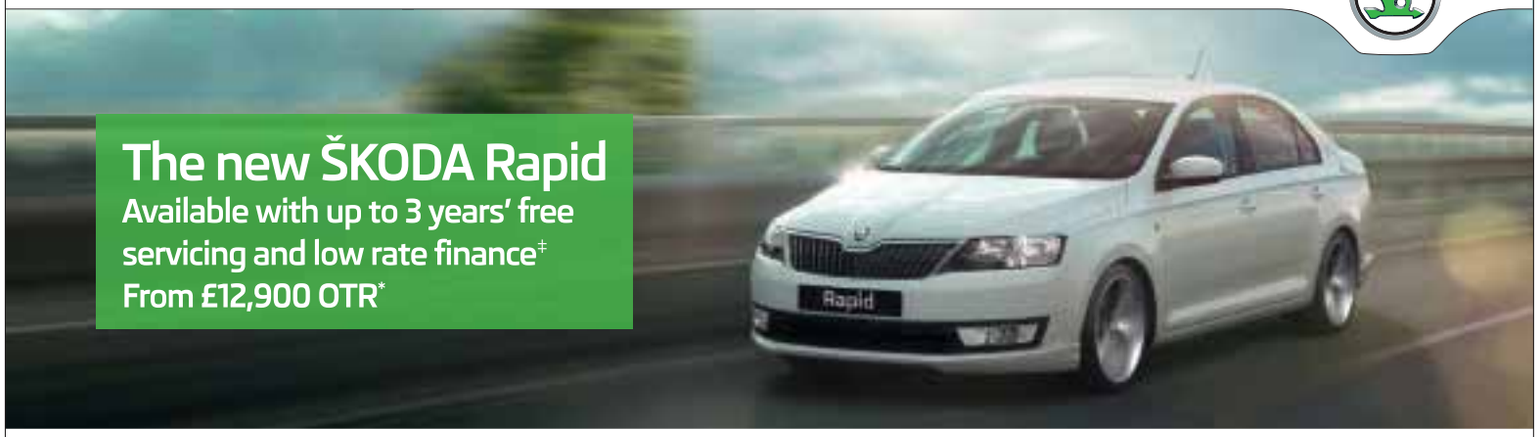
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†Corsa Limited Edition £1310 customer deposit (after deduction of Vauxhall contribution) followed by 60 monthly payments of £199. ‡Astra GTC Sport £3400 customer deposit (after deduction of Vauxhall contribution) followed by 60 monthly payments of £229. Model shown has 19 inch alloy wheels available at an extra cost. ^Corsa SXi £2140 customer deposit followed by 60 monthly payments of £179. Not Available on Expression, ES, Vauxhall Tech Line models, Astra BiTurbo 5dr and Sports Tourer models, Ampera or VXR8. Vauxhall Deposit Contribution not available on ADAM, Corsa SXi or Mokka. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee or Indemnity may be required. Finance supplied by either Vauxhall Motor Finance RH1 1SR or Vauxhall Finance, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1–24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 17 December 2012. *Term can be from 24–60 months, except ADAM (24–48 months). **Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. First year insurance offer available on Corsa SXi only. The offer will cover the full premium for drivers aged between 21–75 (motor policy only). Drivers must have held a valid full UK license for a minimum of 2 years. Only available through Vauxhall Insurance. Policies are underwritten by Ageas Insurance Ltd.

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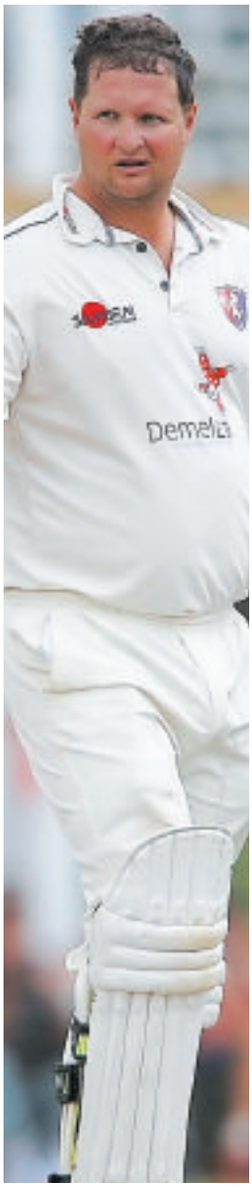
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Key's looking forward to bright future after seven years in the Kent hot seat



TIRED: Rob Key has stepped aside to concentrate on his own performance after seven years

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

ROB Key marked the end of an era after stepping aside as Kent captain this week, but admitted he's excited for the future with team-mate James Tredwell at the helm.

Key, who had been in charge for seven years - the longest of any current serving county captain - said he felt worn out having seen Kent through a tough period in its history.

The 33-year-old revealed he had thought about passing the captaincy on earlier in his career, but felt it wasn't the right time with the club going through difficult periods in the recession. Now, with things on a more even keel on the pitch under head coach Jimmy Adams, he felt comfortable to step aside.

"I care passionately about where it (the club) goes," he said. "Now is not a bad time to hand it over to someone. Every year you think 'am I prepared to do this all again?'. Ultimately I didn't think it was fair for other people to do it."

Key took over from Dave Fulton for the 2006 season and set about making the county a force in the one-day game under the guidance of director of cricket Graham Ford. Success followed as they clinched the Twenty20 cup in his second season, but they suffered the disappointment of losing two finals, firstly the T20 and then the Friends Provident Trophy in 2008.

But personally Key never hit the heights with the bat as he had done before taking over, which played a part in his decision to stand down.

"At the end of the summer I was tired and had had enough really," he said. "I wanted to concentrate on my own game and myself. I had a couple of months of thinking. I came to the conclusion and didn't really change that.

"Every time I look forward I feel excited now. I don't have to worry about being the captain or coping with being the captain or what's happening with the players. I've never been as successful as a player before I took the job on as a captain. It's more about trying to go back to winning games. Hopefully I can keep going and have the best part of my career. I never want to see cricket as a job, and when I do that's when I should finish. I can't think of doing anything else really.

"It was purely about looking forward to being a player. I have always tried to keep a sense of perspective about what I do. Professional sportsmen sometimes miss that and they sometimes think they are more important than they are."

Kent came agonizingly close to promotion back into the top tier of the County Championship in what proved to be his last season in charge, as the promotion race went to the final game. But even promotion wouldn't have affected his decision, he said.

No cup throwing or brash team talks, says Tredwell

NEW Kent captain James Tredwell is hoping to lead by example in a role he admits is a daunting one.

The 30-year-old spinner has experience of leading sides throughout his career, but being given the captaincy of his home county was a shock for the England man.

He's led Kent's second side as well as England A, and England under-19s on one occasion earlier in his career.

He's also proved to be the perfect soundboard on the pitch for his predecessor Rob Key at times, which is a comfort for Tredwell as he heads into a new chapter of his Kent career.

"It's (the captaincy) something I have maybe looked towards coming to this part of my career," he said. "It's not really sunk in yet. I've not dug my teeth into any part of the role, but as we go into this week and next and go into meetings I well get that. I will be pinching myself regularly.

"I just think at this point in my career, this is the next step. Having played a few England games I want that to continue. For me to develop not only as a player but as a person; this is huge for me.

"Taking on this role can enhance my game, and the added responsibility and leading by example is going to be a big thing for me on the field.

"I like to think if I haven't got their (the players) respect I will gain it. I don't think I will be throwing tea cups around, that's not me. It will be a quiet arm round the shoulder or a boot up the backside. It won't be big brash team talks. It's a role I will grow into. I will lean on other people to figure out the best way around it."

Key has often sought the advice of Tredwell on the field in the last few years, and it's a partnership which looks set to continue now the roles have reversed.

"Obviously he's (Rob Key) an experienced man and knows what the role is," said Tredwell. "I'm going to need to rack his brains to help me on my way.

"I've quite enjoyed that (giving advice) the last couple of years. He's made that more evident that he wanted my opinion.

"It's great having the belief from the people that make the decisions that I can do it. If someone believes in you, you can believe in yourself and hopefully I can do them proud."

He's hoping to make the most of the different styles of captaincy he's experienced throughout his career at Kent.

"There's great traditions at the club with former captains Matt Fleming, Dave Fulton and Rob (Key)," he said. "I will use a lot of what they used in their tenure. I think it would be silly not to use the better parts of their captaincy and bring in my own style."



ADVICE: Tredwell to use Key

Fundraising campaign is launched to rebuild stand

A MULTI-MILLION pound fundraising campaign has been launched by Kent County Cricket Club to raise funds to rebuild one of the most recognisable parts of its home ground.

The club wants to construct a new Frank Woolley Stand – replacing the existing stand – at its St Lawrence Ground in Canterbury.

The original stand was constructed in 1927, and despite a renovation in 1972, the club says it is not at the standard of the rest of the redeveloped ground.

The club has spent the last few months looking at the best way forward for the project, which could have either seen it given a lick of paint or complete rebuild, and the county as opted for the latter.

The intention is to raise around £4 million to fund a new, modern stand which is fit for purpose and will form a key part of the newly redeveloped St Lawrence Ground.

Kent Cricket chairman George Kennedy urged members and supporters to get behind the project. He said: "The redevelopment of the St Lawrence Ground is now nearing completion and has brought the St Lawrence Ground up to date.

"It has become apparent that we also need to address the state of the Frank Woolley Stand following the vast improvements to our other facilities.

"We will launch our Woolley Appeal at a special event on January 17. I do hope that many Kent Cricket members and supporters will join us as we get this significant project underway."

Former England international and club captain Matthew Fleming has been appointed patron of the appeal.

Fulton salutes outgoing skipper, but backs new man at helm

FORMER Kent captain Dave Fulton has paid tribute to old team-mate Rob Key, calling him a brilliant leader.

Fulton resigned in 2005, opening the door for Key to take over for the 2006 season, which proved to be Fulton's last year at the county.

Since then Key has led Kent through an unstable period in its history with relegation from the top tier of the County Championship, the recession and the Twenty20 cup success in 2007.

There were also the two finals the following year again in the T20, and in the Friends Provident Trophy, which both ended in defeat.

Fulton, who now works in the media, was full of praise for Key's leadership, particularly in the short form of the game, as Key and former director of cricket Graham Ford found a winning formula.

"I only played under Keysey (Rob Key) for a year when I was on my way out," he said. "He's been tactically very astute, he's got a sharp cricketing brain and he's not afraid of trying new things at times.

"The most important thing he's done, which not a lot of captains have done in recent times, is he's won silverware with the T20 success.

"He and Graham Ford masterminded that. They found a formula that worked. In terms of where he's taken the squad and his leading by example he's been brilliant."

Fulton also knows that while Key's successor Tredwell is a different character, he can also be a success at the St Lawrence Ground.

"He has leadership experience," he said. "He's quieter, but no less respected. He's very well respected and liked in the England set-up. He just gets on with the job. That's an overlooked and underestimated quality.

"It's not all about clapping your hands and encouraging people on the field. Sometimes it's about getting the job done."



ASTUTE: Key has cricketing brain

FOOTBALL

Ward forced to axe stars at cash-strapped Brickies

By Greg Miles
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JOINT Brickies manager Danny Ward admits he may have to let some of his star players leave the club as it struggles to make ends meet.

The club's already tight budget looks set to be slashed further as it struggles to cope. Flagging attendances and difficulty in gaining sponsorship has meant Danny and his joint manager brother Jim will have to release up to two players from the squad they built from scratch this summer when they took over.

It's a decision neither want to make with the club riding high in the Ryman One South against the odds.

Ward stated in the summer he hoped successful football would have fans flocking back to Bourne Park, but it hasn't been the case. Although attendances have increased by single digits, it's not enough to sustain the club in the long run if it's to mount a push for promotion or survive.

Their 10 league games so far this season have seen an average of just 137 fans turning out.

"We need people to come through the door," he said. "The club is struggling. We thought if we got a bit of success people would come and watch, but it's not happened.

"If people want a team in Sittingbourne, we have got one coming together. They need to come out and pay their money. Money is tight as it is everywhere. The fans that do come along are excellent, they sing and everything else that goes with it."

Picture: KEN MEDWYN



SUPPORT: Danny Ward has called on the Sittingbourne faithful to start packing Bourne Park to give the club a more stable future, as he gets set to trim his squad due to dwindling funds

He conceded he will have to let several players go should the situation not improve, which is more than frustrating for the Scot as performances and results have been good for the club considering the rebuilding process that's gone on since they took over.

"It's down to money, nobody wants to leave here," he said. "Everything about it is fantastic, but we have got no money.

"We just cannot afford a squad of 18 players. That's why we need the people to come out and support us. I don't know what more we can do to get them here."

On the pitch the players are continuing to deliver. On Tuesday they picked up an impressive 3-1 win at the Ward brothers' former employees Ramsgate, with former Rams' players Joe Taylor and Curtis Winnett adding to Hicham Akhazzan's strike. It extended their run to six league games unbeaten before this weekend's fixtures.

However, Nick Treadwell picked up a straight red card and is suspended for three games.

MOTORSPORT



AMBITION: Byrne wants to add to his three titles

Temptation of fourth BSB title too much for race ace Byrne to resist

SHANE 'Shakey' Byrne has turned down a ride in MotoGP to become a record-breaker in the British Superbike Championships.

After winning his third BSB title in October at Brands Hatch, the Rapid Solicitors Kawasaki rider was offered the chance to ride in MotoGP by Paul Bird, who owns the team he won the BSB title with this year.

But he has turned down that chance, admitting the temptation to become the most successful BSB rider of all time was too strong.

The 35-year-old from Sheppey, who won his two other titles in 2003 and 2008, needs just two more race wins to overtake Ryiuchi Kiyonari's record of 43.

It wouldn't have been the first time he'd ridden in MotoGP, as after his 2003 win he made the step up. However, he struggled with the pace and returned to BSB in 2006.

It was feared he might not even be in with a shot at the BSB title as the season drew to a conclusion. He suffered ligament damage in his shoulder at Cadwell Park at the end of August, but after three weeks of recuperation he returned to Assen in Holland for the first of the Showdown series. A week later he jumped to the top of the standings at Silverstone and then held his slender nine point advantage at Brands and clinched the title, winning all three races.

"I was in the enviable position of being offered a ride in either MotoGP or BSB by Paul Bird, and after some careful consideration I thought that the option of staying with my championship-winning team on a great bike in BSB was too strong a temptation to resist," said Byrne.

"We are within sight of some records and so, for the first time ever in my career, I am riding for the same team again, but it wasn't really a difficult decision to make.

"We are going into 2013 even stronger, and with a few improvements to the bike as well as me training harder than ever, I'm hoping I can defend the title - but it won't be easy. The one remaining decision I have to make is whether I run with my traditional number 67 or I use the number one plate; you'll have to wait and see."

Team owner Bird said: "We came back to Britain for one thing only and that was for us to win the title. Now we aim to defend it as we've never had a rider do that. Shakey proved he was the dominant force last season and there's no reason why he can't do it again."

FOOTBALL

Preston cup clash will spark mixed emotions for Gills fans

YOU could forgive Preston North End fans for collectively grumbling when the FA Cup draw was made last month.

In years gone by the Deepdale outfit have considered the Gills their bogey team as they locked horns on a regularly basis travelling through the leagues together.

Next weekend's FA Cup second round tie will be the first time they've met since April 2005, when the Gills were heading for relegation from the Championship under Stan Ternent.

Paul Smith gave Gillingham fans something to smile about on their long trip home by netting an equaliser in the final minute.

Those with a slightly longer memory will also have fonder thoughts about beating Preston in the League One play-off semi-final in 1999 before losing to Man City in the final.

Preston's current League One status aside, there is also an element of danger for the Gills about the cup clash. The FA Cup hasn't been kind in recent years as they've crashed out to lower league opposition. Burscough produced



LEGEND: Smith scored at PNE last

the biggest upset in their history seven years ago in the first round. The then Unibond League Premier Division club, which is a short drive from Preston, produced a remarkable comeback on home turf. At 2-1 down heading into the final minute they equalised and scored the winner in injury time.

And in 2010, Andy Hessenthaler, then manager of Dover, returned to the Priestfield to haunt his old club. Adam Birchall, who was at the time playing for Dover, bagged one in a 2-0 victory to see his side into the second round.

ICE HOCKEY

Parrish keen for Dynamos to move in right direction

INVICTA Dynamos coach Kevin Parrish admits he may need to make some changes as he urges his side to pick up their home form.

The Dynamos were on a six game winning streak until last Sunday when Chelmsford Chieftains brought them back down to earth with a 6-3 win at the Silverblades Rink in Gillingham.

And Parrish has conceded they can't afford to drop points at home if they are to challenge in the league.

"We can't be losing our home games," he said. "If we want to be up there challenging in the league we have got to beat these teams at home, because otherwise it makes it even harder when you play away. Maybe last weekend we thought we could turn up and win.

"There will be some changes made, we need to shape up. I will be looking to strengthen in certain areas. I want to try and keep things positive. Players know when they've done things wrong.

"Unfortuantely we haven't had a good run in the cup, which usually helps our league form."

He revealed he had hoped to

Picture: DAVE TREVALLION



FORM: Dynamos were six unbeaten

bring in one player this week, but pulled the plug after talks failed to progress.

However, he moved quickly to fill the void left by the departure of netminder Andy Moffat, who quit to spend more time with his family, by bringing in former goalie Glen Jackson.

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